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Japan Appeals To EC To Exempt Rice From Tariffication

OW1012114692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1127 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Brussels, Dec. 10 KYODO—Japan's Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu met his European Community (EC) counterpart Thursday as part of efforts to seek an exception for rice in a proposed tariffication scheme in the Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks, diplomatic sources said.

At a meeting with EC Agriculture Commissioner Ray Macsharry, Tanabu was expected to ask for understanding from the EC on Japan's policy not to accept tariffication without exception, which would force the country to open its rice market, the sources said.

Macsharry was likely, however, to urge Japan for concession to the rice issue for a yearend political conclusion of the global trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), they said.

The EC commissioner was likely to state its support to comprehensive tariffication to convert all farm import barriers into tariffs as did the United States during Tanabu's trip to Washington before visiting Europe, they said.

Tanabu was also expected to ask Macsharry for a detailed explanation on the contents of the agreement struck earlier this month between the U.S. and the EC on cuts in EC farm export subsidies and oilseeds production, they said.

The Japanese farm minister would point out that a 21 percent cut in the EC's subsidized exports in the U.S.-EC accord must be followed by modification of the final draft proposal offered last December by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel, which provides a 24 percent reduction, the sources said.

Tanabu was expected to then press for negotiations on amendments of the final draft proposal to make an exception in the tariffication scheme, they said.

However, it would be difficult for Japan to win understanding from the EC, which has stated that the agreed reduction in EC farm export subsidies is a minor change to the proposal, they said.

EC Urges Japan To Concede on Rice Issue

OW1012150492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1450 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Brussels, Dec. 10 KYODO—European Community (EC) Agriculture Commissioner Ray Macsharry told Japan's farm minister on Thursday that Japan should liberalize rice imports, diplomatic sources said.

Japanese Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu met Macsharry in his attempts to have rice exempted from a proposed tariffication scheme in the Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks.

In an hourlong meeting, Macsharry was quoted as said: "The EC wants Japan, like all other countries, to contribute in rebalancing world trade. Everybody has to take a step toward more open markets."

Tanabu sought understanding from the EC on Japan's policy of not accepting tariffication without exception, which would force the nation to open its rice market.

Tanabu met the EC commissioner to explain Japan's policy and told him that the liberalization of rice imports had been opposed in Diet debates, the sources said.

But Macsharry reportedly urged Japan to concede on the rice issue to enable a political conclusion to the global trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and pointed to Japan's large trade surplus with the EC. Macsharry said it is a problem that only one nation currently enjoys a trade surplus, the sources said.

Tanabu was also quoted as saying France has also been seeking tariff exceptions for bananas imported from its former colonies in order to protect their banana industries.

But Macsharry said the EC plans to urge France to impose tariffs on the banana imports, according to the sources. He also told Tanabu that EC Vice President Frans Andriessen will ask Japan to lower import tariffs on agricultural products and liquor during his visit to Japan next week, they said.

Japan To Reiterate Opposition to Rice Tariffication

OW0912074292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0729 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Geneva, Dec. 9 KYODO—Japan will tell an informal meeting of the Uruguay Round of global trade talks in Geneva that it cannot afford to accept the proposed tariffication of farm imports that is likely to lead to the opening of its rice market, government officials said Wednesday [9 December].

Jiro Shiwaku, vice minister for international affairs at the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry, will represent Japan at the working-level talks scheduled to start Wednesday morning.

Participating nations in the Uruguay Round, sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), are rushing to wrap up the multilateral trade talks within this year on liberalizing world trade.

The informal meeting, to be attended by officials from a dozen nations, is expected to focus on the farm trade issue, the sticking point in the six-year-old negotiations, the officials said.

They said Japan may face a barrage of criticism at the meeting for opposing the proposed tariffication of farm imports, noting the United States, European Community (EC) member nations, and most other nations support the proposal.

Japan opposes the proposal, which would replace all nontariff barriers for farm imports with tariffs, under its policy of maintaining self-sufficiency in staple food.

AFTA Members Exchange Product Lists for Tariffs

BK1012065692 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Dec 92 p A2

[Text] Senior officials of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations yesterday exchanged the list of manufactured products they want to include in or exclude from the tariff reduction plan as part of a regional free trade area. During the bargaining session, ASEAN officials together put on the table proposals to delay cutting tariffs on more than 3,000 out of a total 3,600 items under the accelerated tariff reduction programme.

The high number of products under the fast track that the individual ASEAN members want to protect from external competition indicates how far they still need to go before they can come up with a decent list earmarked for tariff cuts. The ASEAN officials are working on the nuts and bolts of a comprehensive, if ambitious, tariff reduction programme, which will lead to the creation of the Asean Free Trade Area [AFTA] by Jan 1, 1993.

ASEAN economic ministers will attend the third AFTA Council meeting tomorrow to determine the final list of manufactured products earmarked for accelerated or normal tariff cuts. Lower tariffs among the ASEAN members are expected to increase intra-ASEAN trade and attract foreign investment to a region with a population of 330 million.

At the second AFTA Council in Manila in October, the ASEAN economic ministers agreed to cut tariffs on 15 sectors of products to 0-5 per cent within seven to 10 years. However, the AFTA rules, designed to protect local industries, still allow each member country to exclude any individual product item within the sectors from the fast-track tariff cuts.

Thailand has proposed to its counterparts that it will temporarily exclude 118 items, a number equal to Singapore's, out of the accelerated tariff cut plan, a reduction from its previously proposed 154 items.

Indonesia has proposed to temporarily exclude 1,600 items out of fast-track reduction, compared to 1,100 items for the Philippines, 600 for Brunei, and 648 for Malaysia.

The 15 groups of products earmarked for accelerated tariff cuts embrace more than 3,600 items of ASEAN manufactured goods and farm-processed items. They range from constructional materials, vegetable products to electronics and furniture.

Finance Pemmanent-Secretary Pandit Bunyaphaya told reporters that Thailand has shown its strong commitment to the regional free trade area by presenting a "practical" list for tariff reduction. "Compared with other ASEAN countries, Thailand is more ready for AFTA. Thailand has proposed a small number of exclusion list out of the fast-track plan," he said. "Moreover, our proposed tariff reduction plan is practical."

The Thai delegates also urged the other ASEAN counterparts to bring down the items in the exclusion list to the smallest number as possible so that AFTA would bear fruit as a genuine free trade area, he added.

Under normal tariff reduction, AFTA rules that the member countries should reduce the imported tariff on ASEAN manufactured products and farm-processed goods levied more than 30 percent to a maximum of five percent within a period of 15 years by Dec 31, 2007.

In addition, ASEAN has to lower the import tariffs on manufactured goods of 20 percent to 5 percent within 10 years. A Thai official added that the number of exclusion lists proposed by Malaysia and Indonesia are bigger than Thailand's.

THE NATION Examines AFTA Benefits

BK1012071292 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Dec 92 pp B1-B12

[Text] While Thai business people are still sceptical whether AFTA would make their businesses better or the worse, a former deputy commerce minister told THE NATION last week: "Let's put it this way, which country among the ASEAN Six produces the most manufactured goods?

"Is it Thailand?

"Then, let's imagine who will benefit most from cheaper raw material imports."

AFTA, the brainchild of former Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, has rules which state that the ASEAN nations should lower tariffs (to a maximum of 5 per cent by 2008) on their manufactured goods and farm processed products. The AFTA rules have led to concern among ASEAN-based companies about whether their businesses might be forced out of the market because of competing imports.

"AFTA's spirit is to boost investment through free flows of production among the ASEAN Six. Free competition will promote domestic industry with high potential, while the less viable will be phased out," an Indonesian diplomat said.

The last few weeks in Bangkok have seen intense lobbying by industrialists about difficulties competing under AFTA. Some, such as the electrical and electronics sector, enjoyed protection with a 40-100 percent tariff for imported household appliances. The wall kept Malaysia and Singapore imports from entering the country.

Thai producers' concerns are not unfounded as the government has done little to restructure tariffs on raw and intermediary material imports, which would enable local producers to compete with imports more effectively.

On Thailand's initiative, ASEAN agreed to select 15 groups of products to be scheduled for accelerated implementation of tariff cuts. Effectively, it means that tariffs on the specified sectors will be reduced by participating countries on a reciprocal basis for less than 10 years.

Thailand has proposed to include cement, pulp and paper, fertilizer, wooden furniture, leather products, textiles and jewellery in the fast-track tariff cut basket.

Indonesia proposed ceramics and rattan furniture, while the Philippines proposed to include copper cathodes and glass under the accelerated tariff reduction plan. Malaysia proposed to include vegetable oil, rubber products and electrical goods, areas where its domestic industries have extensive expertise. Highly developed Singapore proposed to include pharmaceuticals, chemicals and plastics.

But ASEAN private sectors have expressed grave concerns about AFTA's effects on their domestic industries. As Chulia J. Azarcon, a Filipino economist, said to his government: "Which export industries can expand their shares in the ASEAN market given the preferential treatment under the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (the major mechanism for AFTA)?

"Which products should we welcome on a duty free basis because they are vital inputs to Philippine industries?

"And in which sectors are Philippine products ready to compete on an accelerated basis?

"These are some of the questions which will need to be examined to assess their competitive strengths and weaknesses, vis-a-vis ASEAN and non-ASEAN suppliers."

For Thailand, a report from the Bangkok Metropolitan Bank estimated that if Thailand reduces tariffs on all ASEAN manufacturing goods to zero percent, Thai import values from ASEAN countries are likely to increase by 38 percent of the 1989 total of 55.11 billion Baht [Bt].

The import sector in machinery and electronic parts would also be expected to enjoy higher growth of 36 percent. The bank report added that the AFTA is likely to boost the value of imports between Thailand and Singapore. Thailand also imports plastics and chemicals from Singapore as well as rubber and electrical goods from the Philippines.

However, the actual trade value between Thailand and Singapore might be lower than estimates, after taking into account the limitations on local content requirements which will force Thai producers to use Malaysian imports.

A former deputy minister from the Anan administration said Thailand is expected to benefit from at least 12 sectors in the fast-track reduction plan. The areas which Thailand might not be ready to compete in now are the vegetable oil, plastic and petrochemical sectors.

Vegetable Oil—After an intense lobby from the local vegetable oil producers, the Finance Ministry agreed to pull palm oil, coconut oil and soyabean oil, from the fast-track reduction list.

The Thai government has imposed an import tariff of Btl.32 per litre of crude palm oil import and Bt2.5 per a litre of fresh palm oil import. But the government has banned palm oil imports.

Admittedly, Thai vegetable oil producers cannot compete with the Asean competition, especially Malaysia and Indonesia, because an inefficient production process has made Thai producers shoulder higher production costs. It is understood that the Chuan administration's decision to pull vegetable oil from the fast-track list is a partial result of domestic political expediency. The Democrat-lead government has a stronghold of votes in the south, where most of the palm oil trees are grown.

Chemicals—Members of the Federation of Thai Industries said that the Thai petrochemical and plastic industries will still need protecting for several years. They said the industry would not be able to survive if the government reduced the current protective tariff (up to 60 percent) to 30 percent from next year.

While the Thai petrochemical industry has just entered the early stages of development, local industrialists have said that they were afraid a flood of imports from Singapore might depress local production prices.

A report from the Industrial Finance Corporation of Thailand [IFCT] said that apart from Singapore, the Thai plastic industry's stage of development is more advanced than the other Asean nations.

And Thailand will develop its petrochemical industry to the aromatic stage of industrial development in the near future—a stage which offers a variety of plastic outputs—whereas Malaysia's is at the much more basic olefin stage.

Indonesia, which is rich in natural resources such as oil and gas, has just entered the early stages of developing petrochemical industry. Indeed, an IFCT report claims that in the next few years it will play a much more significant role in the ASEAN Six petrochemical and plastic industnes.

The petrochemical and plastic industry in the Philippines and Brunei are lagging far behind.

While the Thai plastic trading value last year with the ASEAN nations totalled Bt2.36 billion and accounted for 10.3 per cent of the total Thai plastic trade.

Thailand posted a trade deficit of Bt227 million with ASEAN on plastic products, while the value of Thai trade with Singapore accounted for 78 per cent of the total Thai-ASEAN plastic trade.

Japan

Reportage on Miyazawa's Reshuffle of Cabinet

19 Ministers Tender Resignations

OW1112030092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0236 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Nineteen of the 20 ministers in the cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa tendered their resignations Friday to pave the way for a reshuffle, officials said.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu will tender his resignation later in the day after returning from a trip to the United States and Europe.

Miyazawa will name a new lineup for the cabinet and top posts in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party on Friday evening. An attestation ceremony is set for Saturday at the Imperial Palace.

Miyazawa plans to name Mayumi Moriyama, a former chief cabinet secretary, as education minister, LDP sources said.

Moriyama was the first woman to become chief cabinet secretary, being appointed to the post in the government of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in 1989.

Miyazawa, who is also president of the LDP, has already decided to replace Tamisuke Watanuki with Seiroku Kajiyama as LDP secretary general, the sources said.

Two other key party posts will go to Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, who will be chairman of the policy affairs, and Koko Sato, who will be retained as chairman of the executive council.

The prime minister has already asked Michio Watanabe to stay on as deputy prime minister and concurrently foreign minister, the sources said.

Yohei Kono is most likely to succeed Koichi Kato as Miyazawa's new chief of staff and spokesman.

The cabinet and party reorganization follows the adjournment Thursday of the 42-day extraordinary session of the Diet.

Among those tipped to join the new cabinet are Yoshiro Mori, Yoshiro Hayashi, Yuji Tsushima, Masayoshi Takemura, Hajime Funada, Kosuke Hori, Hyosuke Kujiraoka, Michihiko Kano, Shizuka Kamei, Kaoru Yosano, Kishiro Nakamura, and Toshio Nakayama.

Miyazawa's Popularity Viewed

OW1112094592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0931 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa is widely acclaimed as a sophisticated and seasoned politician who seems to be at ease reading an English language news magazine in the Diet.

That and the fact he has distanced himself from political wheelings and dealings in the long years he has been a Diet member may have cost him his popularity in public opinion polls.

The Finance Ministry bureaucrat-turned-politician has just completed reorganizing his cabinet at a time when his popularity is down to 12 percent from 40 percent he received shortly after he assumed the reins of government just over a year ago.

Miyazawa is one of a few Japanese political leaders who has had direct dealings with Americans in the World War II era.

A former Finance Ministry bureaucrat, Miyazawa's reputation as one of the most able economic technocrats in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has been put to the test by an economic downturn that has dogged him for most of his first 13 months on the job.

Miyazawa, who entered the job promising the nation a "better quality of life," has been forced instead to scramble to push through policies aimed at maintaining the status quo.

The premier also has a mixed record in foreign diplomacy.

In June, Miyazawa overcame stiff resistance by opposition parties and won parliamentary approval of the United Nations peace cooperation law, paving the way for Japan's Self-Defense Forces to join in U.N. peacekeeping operations in Cambodia.

Then, quelling opposition from conservative ruling Liberal Democratic Party Diet members, Miyazawa paved the way for a historic visit to China by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko.

The visit was heralded as a landmark in post-war Sino-Japanese relations, and comes at a time when the former World War II foes are both enjoying growing influence in the region.

Relations with the U.S. got off to a bumpy start, however, following President George Bush's ill-fated, trade-oriented visit to Japan in January. During the trip, Bush fell ill and was criticized as appearing more salesman-like than presidential, and Miyazawa made a poorly received comment on the decline of the American work ethic.

The spotlight soon shifted away from bilateral relations as the U.S. focused on the November presidential elections.

Miyazawa won support for Japan's position on a territorial dispute with Russia from leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialized nations at the July economic summit, but relations with Moscow soon chilled when Russian President Boris Yeltsin canceled a mid-September trip with only a few days notice.

He has traveled abroad four times since becoming prime minister, to South Korea, to New York for a U.N. Security Council summit meeting, to France and to Munich for the G-7 economic summit.

Miyazawa entered the Finance Ministry after graduating in 1941 from Tokyo Imperial University, now the University of Tokyo.

A fluent English speaker, he served as adviser in negotiations with U.S. occupation forces and later participated as a Japanese delegate in the 1951 San Francisco Peace Conference.

Miyazawa left the ministry in 1952 and was elected to the House of Councillors the following spring, and since the 1967 election has served nine terms in the House of Representatives. He has also held posts as foreign minister and in the Economic Planning Agency.

He resigned as finance minister in December 1988 because of his secretary's involvement in the Recruit-stocks-for-favor scandal.

Political Affiliations of Cabinet

OW1112133292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1259 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa reshuffled his 13-month-old cabinet Friday in a bid to make a fresh start in his premiership by tackling numerous foreign and domestic issues.

Miyazawa, 73, appointed Yohei Kono, a former renegade of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, chief cabinet secretary or the cabinet's top spokesman.

Announcing a list of 20 cabinet members at the prime minister's official residence shortly after 6 PM, Kono said the new lineup reflected Miyazawa's desire to secure a free hand on key issues.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu retained their posts but eight entirely new faces appeared in the 20-man line-up.

The new Miyazawa cabinet will face such pressing issues as political reform and foreign pressure to open the rice market.

The cabinet shuffle, the first since Miyazawa came to office in November 1991, is seen as a key yardstick of his earlier pledge to remove the ill effects of factionalism.

Amid a widening money-and-mob scandal involving key figures in the ruling party, the public support rate for the Miyazawa cabinet has sharply declined.

The latest KYODO News Service poll, released Wednesday, put the public support rating for the cabinet at 16.1 percent, sharply down from 31.4 percent in October.

The figure is the second lowest cabinet approval rate in the KYODO polls. Only the cabinet of Noboru Takeshita has scored lower, with a 12.6 percent support rating in March 1989.

The sharp fall in support reflects mounting public distrust of the government for its handling of the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal and political reform.

The shakeup of the cabinet and party leadership followed the adjournment Thursday of the 42-day extraordinary session of the Diet.

Cabinet and top LDP posts have always been distributed according to the relative strength of intraparty factions and based on lists of names presented by the factions.

Kono said no faction submitted a recommendation list for cabinet candidates and that the process of forming this cabinet was very different from that used in the past.

This time the cabinet shuffle was carried out amid the breakup of the largest LDP faction, which was founded by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

Former Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata announced early Friday that he and 35 other faction members loyal to former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa will launch a new faction in mid-December, splitting the 109-member Takeshita faction.

The factional strife was triggered by resignation of disgraced political kingmaker Shin Kanemaru from the Diet in October over his implication in the scandal. Kanemaru, former LDP vice president, led the faction.

Miyazawa's relative success in removing what he calls "the ill effects of factionalism" attested to the coming breakup of the Takeshita faction.

The number of cabinet posts filled by the Takeshita faction decreased by one to five—three for the group led by former LDP Secretary General Keizo Obuchi, and the remaining two for the Hata group.

Miyazawa appointed three members of his own faction to the cabinet.

The factions led by Foreign Minister Watanabe and Hiroshi Mitsuzuka took four posts each, while the smallest LDP faction, led by Toshio Komoto, received two posts and a minor group headed by Mutsuki Kato took one portfolio. One post went to a politician with no factional affiliation.

Kono, who previously served as state minister and director general of the Science and Technology Agency, received his second cabinet post belatedly because he bolted the LDP when it was tainted by the Lockheed payoff scandal in 1976 and formed a new political party, the New Liberal Club. He later returned to the LDP.

Yoshiro Hayashi, one of Miyazawa's closest aides, became finance minister to spearhead efforts to revive Japan's economic prosperity, replacing Hata.

Miyazawa named Yoshiro Mori, former chairman of the LDP Policy Affairs Research Council, to the post of international and trade industry minister to tackle the nation's external trade disputes. Mori succeeded Kozo Watanabe.

From the largest faction's Hata group, Hajime Funada was appointed director general of the Economic Planning Agency at the age of 39, the youngest cabinet minister since the end of World War II.

Mayumi Moriyama, former chief cabinet secretary, is the only woman in the new cabinet as education minister.

Miyazawa named Masaharu Gotoda, an independent veteran politician who served as acting head of the LDP's Political Reform Headquarters, as justice minister.

This marks a departure from the virtual monopoly on the key portfolio by the LDP's largest faction, founded by former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, or by the Takeshita faction for years.

Even after Takeshita formed his own faction from members of the Tanaka faction in 1987, the post has been held by the powerful group.

Miyazawa and his 20 cabinet members will attend the attestation ceremony in the presence of Emperor Akihito at the imperial palace Saturday morning. He will then call the first meeting of his second cabinet.

New Cabinet To Tackle Economy

OW1112132392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1254 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—The reorganized cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa formed Friday faces hard economic challenges such as the sluggish economy, the rice issue, and the swelling current account surplus, economists said.

The nation's economy has slowed down for the past year since Miyazawa took office, contrary to expectations about the prime minister's skill in economic issues, they said.

Despite the government's 10.7 trillion yen pump-priming package, no clear sign of economic recovery has yet come in sight, they said.

Japan's seasonally adjusted Gross National Product (GNP) during the July-September period contracted by 0.4 percent from the previous quarter or an annualized 1.6 percent, posting a quarterly fall for the first time in three years and three months.

Miyazawa commented that the economy would turn upward after the July-September quarter when the economic stimulus package takes effect after the passage of the supplementary budget through the Diet. He also said falling land prices have helped boost investment in housing.

Consumer spending, which accounts for some 60 percent of GNP, remains weak, however, while private-sector investment in plant and equipment is unlikely to recover soon due to deteriorating corporate profits, the economists said.

The employment climate has also become worse, with the ratio of job offers to job seekers falling below the critical 1.0 line in October for the first time since May 1988.

The economists expect additional pump-priming measures to be considered, including an increase in spending on public works in the budget for fiscal 1993 starting next April 1 and expanded financial support for small- and medium-sized companies through active fiscal investments and loans.

Another cut in the official discount rate, the sixth since July 1991, is expected to be a focal point as well, they said.

Calls for an income tax cut to encourage consumption are also likely from industry and opposition parties, they said.

Miyazawa has rejected cutting income tax, maintaining it would force the government to issue deficit-covering bonds.

The economists think the prime minister, however, plans to cut income tax while at the same time raising the consumption tax, currently at 3 percent, in fiscal 1994.

They noted, however, that there is a possibility of an earlier income tax cut if the economic recovery is delayed.

The most difficult challenge before the new cabinet is the proposed comprehensive tariffication scheme in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the economists said.

Of 108 negotiating nations, only a few countries, such as Japan, South Korea, and Canada, oppose the replacement of all nontariff farm import barriers with tariffs, as proposed by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel. Tariffication would mean that Japan would have to abandon its ban on rice imports.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu flew this week to Washington and Brussels to explain Japan's political difficulty in accepting the proposal but failed to win understanding from either side.

Japan's refusal to open its rice market could delay the conclusion of the Uruguay Round—widely expected within this year or by next January 20 at the latest when U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton takes office, the economists said.

Japan, therefore, will be under great pressure to make a "political decision" on the rice issue, they said.

Miyazawa will have to work out large-scale domestic measures if a concession to accept tariffication becomes inevitable, they said.

Meanwhile, with all industrialized nations suffering sluggish economies, policy coordination for sustainable world economic growth is expected to be the top on the agenda for a summit meeting of major industrialized nations scheduled for next July in Tokyo, they said.

Japan's accumulated current account surplus in the January-October period hit a record high level of 96.2 billion dollars and Japan will face more criticism if the surplus continues swelling, they said.

The new cabinet will be pressed to increase imports of foreign goods and promote the yen's appreciation if Japan fails to boost the domestic-demand driven economic growth before the summit meeting, they said.

The United States under the new Clinton administration is likely to urge Japan to open its markets further to semiconductors, automobile parts, and finance, just for a start, they said.

There is a possibility of revival of the Super 301 Provision of the U.S. Trade Law, which provides for retaliation against countries that the U.S. deems to be engaged in unfair trade practices, they said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Profiled

OW1112093892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0906 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Yohei Kono, the new chief cabinet secretary or Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's chief of staff and official spokesman, is known as the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) outspoken critic of money scandals and—for 10 years—a breakaway whistle-blower.

Kono, 55, founder of the now-disbanded New Liberal Club (NLC), a conservative splinter group that seceded from the LDP after the 1976 Lockheed kickback scandal, has blasted former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka and other party leaders for playing "money politics."

By naming Kono as his spokesman, Miyazawa reportedly hopes to bolster his cabinet's prestige and image tarnished by the Tokyo Sagawa money-and-mob scandal.

In June, 1976, Kono and five other LDP Diet members submitted letters of secession to then LDP Secretary General Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Kono, then 39, told reporters that politicians should "bid farewell to corruption." He would say that the NLC was ready to make sacrifices to revive the voters' trust in conservative politics, then paralyzed by a public outcry over the lockheed payoff scandal.

The group's anticorruption stand drew the sympathy of many voters, who elected 18 of the group's candidates to the House of Representatives in a general election six months after its formation.

Intragroup squabbles later plagued the NLC and its parliamentary strength plunged to four in a 1979 general election before forming a coalition with the Nakasone cabinet in 1983.

In a 1985 cabinet reshuffle, Kono was named director general of the Science and Technology Agency.

The following year the LDP revived a single majority in the powerful lower chamber with a "304-seat" landslide victory in simultaneous elections of both houses of the Diet and the New Liberal Club was booted out of the coalition.

The NLC finally disbanded in 1986 and most of the original dissident members rejoined the LDP, ending its 10-year life as another conservative party.

After the NLC breakup, Kono defended what the group had stood for, saying, "had it not been for our actions, (many) voters who had been supporting the LDP would have shifted their support from political conservativism to socialists and communists."

A graduate of Waseda University, he also studied at Stanford University in the United States. Kono is renowned for his wealth and land assets—700 million yen worth, according to his own report to the government.

Kono has a political family background as the eldest son of the late Ichiro Kono, who was the leader of a faction in the LDP and served as construction minister and key cabinet posts in late 1950s and early 1960s. His faction was later taken over by Nakasone.

As high-calibered members of the Miyazawa faction, Kono and his predecessor, Koichi Kato, are deemed as prospective future contenders for the position of next leader of the faction in a rivalry dubbed, "K(Kono)-K(Kato) war" in political circles.

Michio Watanabe Retained, Profiled

OW1112094292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0913 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Michio Watanabe, retained as deputy prime minister and foreign minister in Friday's cabinet reshuffle, is head of the fourth-largest faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Watanabe, 69, from Tochigi Prefecture, has kept sensitive foreign ministry bureaucrats on edge with his brash remarks, both in public and in meetings with foreign dignitaries.

Nicknamed "Mitchy" by the mass media, he ran second behind Miyazawa in the October 1991 LDP presidential election.

He makes no effort to conceal his regional accent—that of Tochigi Prefecture, north of Tokyo—and this and the fact that he made a living selling goods door-to-door by bicycle after World War II, are said to be sources of his appeal to voters.

Long tipped as a future prime minister, Watanabe was widely expected to fade from the political scene when he fell ill and was hospitalized for several weeks last summer.

The incident recalled the illness and subsequent death of another contender for the leadership, Shintaro Abe, who was foreign minister in the cabinet of former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and LDP secretary general under former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

But Watanabe was retained by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and went on to head Emperor Akihito's entourage to China during the monarch's historic visit there in September.

Watanabe has previously held the portfolios for trade, finance, agriculture, and health and welfare.

As foreign minister, he has shown particular interest in Japan's relations with China and Southeast Asia, especially Indochina.

But he has yet to travel there in his present post, having gone to China, Russia, South Korea, the United States, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. He is expected to visit Washington again in January.

Watanabe missed an opportunity to oversee progress on Japan's protracted territorial dispute with Russia when President Boris Yeltsin postponed a scheduled visit to Japan in September.

Still smarting from Yeltsin's previous no-show at a scheduled meeting during a trip to Moscow, Watanabe characteristically called the Russian leader "rude."

He also distressed ministry bureaucrats by saying there might be no point in Japan's hosting a planned international conference on aid to the former Soviet Union, though the gathering went ahead as scheduled.

Watanabe's appointment to the post of foreign minister in November 1991 was met with surprise in some quarters, considering his lack of foreign policy experience and controversial remarks in the past about black Americans and Chinese.

He once suggested that blacks in the United States have a problem with credit and are unable to keep up with their bills. He also once said there are many people living in holes in China.

In both instances, he later disputed the way his remarks were widely interpreted and has since donated money to a fund for black students in the United States.

New Finance Minister Profiled

OW1112095192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0937 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Yoshiro Hayashi, 65, the new finance minister, is known as a reform-minded internationalist because of his advocacy of friendly relations with the United States and the international community.

A former diplomat stationed three years at the Japanese Embassy in Brussels, Hayashi is known for his fluency in English and French.

Hayashi, former chief of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) International Bureau, supported a proposal by former U.S. Ambassador Mike Mansfield to increase the flow of trade between the two allies by setting up a "U.S.-Japan free trade zone."

Hayashi came under opposition fire during the 1991 House of Representatives session for his role as chairman of a special committee which approved a bill sending the Self-Defense Forces to join a U.N. peacekeeping mission in Cambodia.

During a turbulent Diet session, Hayashi called the vote five times and declared the bill passed despite jostling and shoving by opposition legislators who stormed the chairman's rostrum.

A minister of health and welfare under the government of former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, Hayashi advocated cutting burgeoning state medical insurance spending by requiring that citizens pay 20 percent of their medical fees.

After the LDP suffered a severe setback in the 1989 House of Councillors election over the recruit stocks-for-favor scandal and former Prime Minister Sosuke Uno's extramarital affair with a geisha hostess, Hayashi ran for the LDP presidency, which carries with it the premiership.

During the party election, Hayashi competed against former Education Minister Toshiki Kaifu and former Transport Minister Shintaro Ishihara.

Although he was defeated by Kaifu, Hayashi ended up with a surprisingly strong showing by garnering 120 ballots against Kaifu's 279 and Ishihara's 48.

During the campaign for the LDP presidency, Hayashi told his LDP colleagues, "the outcome of the upper house election reflects public distrust in our party.

"The public is enraged by politicians' acceptance of huge easy money while the government increased tax burden on the public with the introduction of a consumption tax," he said.

Hayashi told his colleagues that only "serious repentance," would restore public support for the party.

Once a member of the faction led by former LDP boss Kakuei Tanaka who fell from grace over the Lockheed bribery scandal, Hayashi kept a low profile briefly, as he refused to remain in the faction after it was taken over and renamed the Takeshita faction by Tanaka's protege, Noboru Takeshita.

Hayashi joined the Miyazawa faction in 1990 and then took over as the faction's secretary general after his predecessor, Fumio Abe, was convicted of accepting huge bribes from now-bankrupt steel-frame maker Kyowa Corp.

Defense Agency Chief Profiled

OW1112101392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1003 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Toshio Nakayama, familiar with the misery of life as a young soldier during World War II, was named the director general of the Defense Agency. He is member of the Obuchi wing of the Takeshita faction.

Nakayama, 67, is a second-generation politician who gained his love for politics as a middle school student on the campaign trail with his father, Eiichi, and learned the miseries of war when he tasted life as a soldier mobilized as a student during the war.

He brings to the Defense Agency the belief that "Japan must never again walk down the path of militarism."

Nakayama is one of the much heralded "class of 1969" legislators in the Takeshita faction, but has failed twice in election bids from Ibaraki's No. 1 electoral district and for that reason is the last of his "class" to gain a cabinet post.

As a student at Nihon University after the war, Nakayama was co-captain of the school's swimming team during its golden age which also produced Hironoshin Furuhashi, "the flying fish of Fujiyama."

The Ibaraki Prefecture native has been elected to the House of Representatives six times and has served in a handful of party posts.

New EPA Chief Funada Profiled

OW1112111892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1109 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Hajime Funada, the new director of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA), is the youngest person to join the cabinet, breaking the previous record by 50 days, which was set by former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, who became a cabinet minister at the age of 39 years and two months.

In a recent power struggle within the Takeshita faction, the largest group in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), after the resignation of political kingpin Shin Kanemaru, Funada, 39, acted as a spokesman for the ousted group led by former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa.

He is a member of the Hata faction that will be established soon after the splitting of the No. 1 faction named after former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

He served as secretary general for the Takeshita faction under the leadership of former Acting Chairman Ozawa. He is a grandson of the late Naka Funada, a former speaker of the House of Representatives, who used to lead a moderate LDP faction.

Since being elected to the lower house from Tochigi Prefecture at the age of 25, Funada has involved himself mainly in education policy affairs.

He comes from a politician's family which founded a well-known private school, Sakushin-Gakuin, in Tochigi.

Recently he extended his field of activity to international matters by serving twice as chairman of the LDP's foreign affairs division.

He also served as parliamentary vice minister of education and parliamentary vice minister of the Management and Coordination Agency.

In the lower house, he was the chairman of the lower house Committee on Education.

The graduate of Keio University has been elected to the lower house five times from Tochigi Prefecture's No.1 constituency.

New Education Minister Profiled

OW1112095592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0916 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Education Minister Mayumi Moriyama, 65, was the first woman appointed to serve as chief cabinet secretary and top government spokesperson after Japan's political world was rocked by sex scandals in 1989.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu asked her to leave the post of environment agency chief, which she had held for just a few weeks, to take over from Chief Cabinet Secretary Tokuo Yamashita, who resigned due to a sex scandal.

Moriyama, a member of the smallest Liberal Democratic Party faction, headed by Toshio Komoto, has been critical of her LDP colleagues for "backwardness" when it comes to womens' issues, but she also accepted a symbolic role.

In her English memoirs on life as chief cabinet secretary, Moriyama wrote that "I understood from the beginning that I was being used (as a token) but no matter what the reason was, I felt it was good that a woman had been offered this first chance."

As chief cabinet secretary from August 1989 to February 1990, she played a key role in spelling out Japan's views on the rapidly changing international scene, from the collapse of the Berlin Wall to the U.S. military invasion of Panama.

One of only two women in the first class at University of Tokyo to admit women, Moriyama went on to work at the Labor Ministry, where she was tagged throughout her 30 years there as being the first woman to serve in a variety of posts.

She served as director general of the ministry's Women's and Young Workers' Bureau before she decided in 1980 to turn to politics, where she joined her husband, House of Representatives member Kinji, now deceased.

She is currently serving her third term as a House of Councillors member from Tochigi Prefecture, north of Tokyo.

A fluent English speaker, Moriyama has served as vice minister of foreign affairs, and in 1985 she led the Japanese delegation to the Nairobi United Nations World Conference for the Women's Decade.

Justice Minister Gotoda Profiled

OW1112101292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0942 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Masaharu Gotoda, a veteran of cabinets spanning more than three decades and known widely by his nickname "razor," was named justice minister Friday.

During his days as head of the National Police Agency, Gotoda developed a reputation as a man with the ability to gather information about public officials and manipulate fellow cabinet members.

The 78-year-old confidant of former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka served five years in the administration of Yasuhiro Nakasone as chief cabinet secretary, head of the now-defunct Administrative Managament Agency, and the Management and Coordination Agency.

As a mainstay of the Nakasone cabinets, Gotoda became a trusted adviser of the prime minister.

Because he was treated well by Nakasone, members of the old Tanaka faction disliked him, but Gotoda refused to take part in the formation of the Takeshita faction from the remains of the Tanaka faction and remains unaffiliated.

Near the end of the Kaifu administration, Gotoda protested the defeat of an administrative reform bill that had as its pillar the creation of small constituency election districts which would chose representatives proportionately.

He later resigned as acting chief of the Liberal Democratic Party's Political Reforms Headquarters.

Gotoda, a Tokyo University graduate, represents Tokushima Prefecture and has been elected to the House of Representatives six times.

Health Minister Niwa Profiled

OW1112101892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1005 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Health and Welfare Minister Yuya Niwa is a journalist-turned politician.

He was a journalist covering politics for a national newspaper, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN, and entered the political world in 1979.

Niwa, 48, is well versed in social and labor policies. He contributed to introducing a holiday on May 4 during the so-called Golden Week, and to introducing a paramedic emergency aid system.

He is the third son of the late Yoshiro Niwa, a former transport minister.

As a student of Keio University, he devoted himself to student activities as the head of a student council.

Niwa has held such posts as parliamentary vice minister for the Health and Welfare Ministry, chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Social and Labor Affairs, and the chairman of the Finance Committee of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

He is a deputy secretary general of the LDP faction led by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

He has been returned to the lower house five times from Ibaraki Prefecture.

Management, Coordination Agency Chief

OW1112130892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1207 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Michihiko Kano, new director general of the Management and Coordination Agency, is considered an expert of transportation in the Diet.

He is a House of Representative member, who pushed hard for the the July 1992 opening of Yamagata Shinkansen lines.

In addition to his rich experience in transportation, the 50-year-old Diet member is a newcomer to the Agricultural-Fishery Group in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Kano, a native of Yamagata Prefecture in northern Japan and a graduate of Gakushuin University of Tokyo, has been elected to the lower house six times starting in December 1976.

He previously held the posts of minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries and head of the the House of Representatives Transport Committee.

The July 1989 House of Councillors election dealt a severe blow to Kano as he was one of party officials in charge of the election under former LDP Secretary General Shintaro Abe.

That experience, however, has raised him to one of "new leaders" of the LDP's second largest faction led by Hiroshi Mitsuzuka.

Ministry of Construction Head

OW1112104292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1019 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Inspired by the example of his late father, a former member of the House of Councillors after whom he is named, Kishiro Nakamura wanted to become a politician as early as his elementary school days.

Starting his political career in 1976 at the age of 27, when he made his successful first bid in general elections, Nakamura was the first politician born after World War II to assume a cabinet post, when he was appointed head of the Science and Technology Agency under Prime Minister Sousuke Uno in 1989.

As Nakamura's strong points are said to be his affable way with people, he surprised party colleagues with his vehement criticism of close friend Ichiro Ozawa in the succesion struggle within the Liberal Democratic Party's largest Takeshita faction.

He served as first deputy of Seiroku Kajiyama, chairman of the LDP Diet Affairs Committee, and took over disgraced party kingpin Shin Kanemaru's post at the top of the LDP Research Commission on Highways in October.

Nakamura, who was elected to the House of Representatives six times in his home constituency in Ibaraki Prefecture, is considered one of the politicians the Obuchi group of the Takeshita faction pins its hope on.

New MITI Minister Mori Profiled

OW1112100892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0958 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—New International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori, 55, is the No. 2 man in the ruling party's second-largest faction headed by Hiroshi Mitsuzuka.

Mori served as chairman of the policy-making Policy Affairs Research Council of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in the first Miyazawa cabinet from November last year.

In the money-and-mobster Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal, Mori was said by prosecutors to have offered 2 billion yen to a rightist group in an unsuccessful bid to silence the group's harassment campaign against former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

Mori denied having contacts with the rightist group.

Mori has involved himself in education policy matters since he was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1969 from Ishikawa Prefecture.

He became education minister in former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's second cabinet in 1983 at the age of 46, very young by LDP standards, and put the educational reforms initiated by Nakasone on track.

He made efforts to inaugurate the National Council on Educational Reform in 1984, and has also served three terms as chairman of the LDP's Education Committee.

He was instrumental in passing legislation to subsidize private schools.

As a young politician Mori was a political protege of former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda.

At 40, he became deputy chief cabinet secretary in Fukuda's cabinet.

He has gained experience in dealing with opposition parties in the Diet in his capacity as deputy secretary general and vice chairman of the Policy Affairs Research council, and chairman of the lower house Finance Committee.

He is also a staunch supporter of the South Korean Government as a member of the Japan-(South) Korea Parliamentarians' League.

Mori's rise in the LDP was somewhat disrupted, however, when he was implicated in the Recruit stocks-for-favor scandal in 1988. He received 30,000 preflotation Recruit Cosmos shares and acknowledged that he made more than 100 million yen by selling the shares after they were made public.

Following the death of former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe in May 1991, Mori joined hands with Mitsuzuka to help make the latter the head of the Abe faction.

Mori was subsequently given the faction's No. 2 post—acting faction chairman—and is regarded as the most probable future successor to Mitsuzuka as faction leader.

He comes from a rich farming and political family in Ishikawa Prefecture, with both his grandfather and father having served in local assemblies.

He sharpened his debating skill at Waseda University, where he studied commerce.

Mori was a journalist before he turned to politics.

He has been elected to the lower house from Ishikawa eight times.

Economic Ties With U.S Stressed by Yoshiro Mori

OW1112103092 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0918 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Statement by newly appointed International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori at a news conference at the prime minister's official residence—live]

[Text] I have just been appointed minister of international trade and industry. I am Yoshiro Mori. I feel awed by my weighty duties. As you well know, the international trade and industry administration extensively covers trade, industry, small business, energy, the local economy, and technology. The administration is very important and I intend to work hard in the future. For the time being, I intend to work for an early recovery of the economy. The extraordinary Diet session passed the supplementary budget and I appreciate the session passing it. I will work to have the supplementary budget yield quick results for the economy. I also intend to ask the Finance Ministry to pay more attention to the economy when it compiles a budget for fiscal 1993. We will have to develop local economies and upgrade local infrastructure.

In particular, a new administration will be inaugurated in the United States. I will work to further strengthen Japan-U.S. relations. I believe that Japan should fully cooperate with the United States in revitalizing the latter's domestic economy by building friendly economic relations with that country. I also believe that Japan and the United States should think of taking the lead in revitalizing the world economy. This is an important task, I think. The world is now undergoing changes in the quest for a new global order. The Asian and Pacific region in particular is faced with many issues. I think that Japan should work for the stability and prosperity of the region. I think that our international trade and industry policy should play a great role to that end.

Agriculture Minister Returns From U.S., Europe

OW1112111092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1055 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu returned to Tokyo on Friday evening after completing a tour of the United States and Europe where he held talks with U.S. and European agricultural officials to explain Japan's position on opening its rice market.

He was retained as farm minister in a cabinet reshuffle the same day.

Faces Rice Issue Negotiations

OW1112113092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1117 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu faces tough negotiations with Japan's trading partners over the dilemma of choosing between antagonizing domestic farmers or foreign countries demanding that Japan's rice market be opened.

He was retained in the post at a time when the world is watching Japan's response to the rice issue following the settlement of a bitter trade row between the United States and the European Community (EC) over the EC's oilseed production.

The decision to retain Tanabu, 58, was made as he was returning from a mission to the U.S. and the EC, where he reasserted Japan's position that the U.S.-EC compromise cannot lead Japan to accept the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) proposal to replace Japan's rice import ban with tariffs.

Before beginning his political career, Tanabu played the part of a powerful hockey player in successive olympic games in Squaw Valley, U.S., in 1960, Innsbruck, Austria, in 1964 and Sapporo, Japan, in 1972.

His deep affection for ice hockey motivated him in 1968 to assume the post of directing the ice hockey team of Seibu Railway Co., one of Japan's largest conglomerates.

As team director, he led it to its first victory in the All-Japan Ice Hockey League, Japan's most prestigious ice hockey round robin.

Tanabu, a five-term House of Representative legislator from a rice-producing Aomori constituency, was first appointed to the agriculture minister portfolio in 1991 in Miyazawa's first cabinet.

In apparent reference to Japan's difficult position in GATT talks, Tanabu told a meeting of his constituency supporters in 1991, "there are no sport players who would walk away from the game because his team is being put on the defensive."

Still, Tanabu apparently faces an uphill battle with his American and European counterparts in convincing them to consider Japan's national interests in the face of growing pressure for the dismantling of the rice import ban.

Expresses 'Pessimism' on Talks

OW1112144492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1435 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Japan's Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu on Friday expressed pessimism about a conclusion by year-end of world trade talks being conducted under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Tanabu was speaking at a press conference after his return the same day from a trip to the United States and Europe where he met with his counterparts to seek an exemption for rice from a proposed tariffication scheme in the so-called Uruguay round of trade talks.

Tanabu said, "I'm doubtful that the multilateral trade talks under GATT can be concluded by Christmas, despite that goal set at the summit talks of the Group of Seven industrialized nations in Munich in July this year."

"As I told Prime Minister (Kiichi) Miyazawa, it's hard to predict how the talks will develop. Each nation has its own problems if the negotiations go into detail," the minister said.

Tanabu said no agreement was reached concerning Japan's policy of rejecting across-the-board tariffication in talks with both U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills and European Community Agriculture Commissioner Ray Macsharry.

Asked whether or not the minister plans to have prompt consultations with the other ministries concerned and a committee meeting of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, he said, "it's not the right time," hinting he would continue negotiating with his counterparts in the U.S. and EC.

Tanabu was retained in Friday's cabinet reshuffle.

Demonstrators Rally in Front of Camp Courtney

OW1012112892 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 10 Dec 92 Morning Edition p 25

[Text] On the afternoon of 7 December, a U.S. Forces vehicle veered off the highway in downtown Ishikawa city onto the sidewalk, running over and killing Akiko Kogachi (age 62), a local resident. Considering the accident to be a grave affair, the Central Regional Chapter of the General Council of Okinawa Prefectural Trade Unions (chaired by Zenichi Matsubara) held an emergency protest rally in front of Camp Courtney Gate One in Gushikawa City around noon on 9 December, and denounced the accident.

Participating in the rally were about 60 demonstrators, including union members, Ishikawa City and Gushikawa City assemblymen, and ordinary citizens. The participants at first offered one minute's silent prayer for Ms. Kogachi's repose, facing toward Camp Courtney.

Chairman Matsubara made a strong appeal and said: "One of our people lost her life in broad daylight, being treated not much better than a dog. U.S. Forces vehicles are being operated now in the same manner as they were before reversion, and the accident was bound to happen. Let us thoroughly examine accident prevention and legal shortcomings."

After Yoichi Iha, director of the chapter, reported his investigation of the incident, Kyoho Kinjo, a member of the Ishikawa City assembly, Yuichi Kuda, a member of the Gushikawa City assembly, and Hisateru Matsuda, chairman of the Ishikawa City workers' labor union, called out to the participants over the microphone and said: "This is not simply a traffic accident, but rather an issue resulting from the existence of military bases on Okinawa. Let us continue our fight to abolish military bases."

At the end of the rally, all participants repeatedly shouted slogans and drummed up enthusiasm. Afterwards, Caroline Francis [as published], turning towards Camp Courtney, explained the purpose of the rally in English. She called out to U.S. Marines guarding the gate and said: "The Okinawan people don't want military bases here."

EC Said To Demand Tokyo Reduce Tariffs Further

OW1112040792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0341 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Geneva, Dec. 11 KYODO—The European Community (EC) asked Japan on Thursday to further reduce its tariffs at a bilateral meeting on market access issues as part of global trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Japanese sources said Friday.

During the meeting held at GATT's Geneva Headquarters, EC negotiators asked for sharp reduction of the high secondary tariffs Japan imposes on imports. They especially cited leather goods and processed farm products like cheese, as items carrying stiff tariffs.

The EC's additional request suggests that Japan will have to make further concessions if there is to be a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks by the year-end.

Japan has already agreed to cut primary tariffs on about 6,500 items at market-access talks.

During the bilateral meeting, Japanese negotiators also requested that the EC lower tariff rates on microchips, photo materials, and rubber products, the sources said.

The two sides have agreed to continue the talks but have not announced a date for resumption as yet, the sources said.

Mission To Explore Feasibility of Aid to Somalia

OW1012153092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1511 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Japan will shortly send a mission to African countries around Somalia to look into the feasibility of providing assistance through its Self-Defense Forces (SDF) and civilians, a government source said Thursday.

The official said the government is considering SDF participation in the field of transportation. He indicated that the SDF, whose dispatch overseas is a touchy proposition in Japan due to constraints on the military enshrined in the country's Constitution, would not go into Somalia. Instead, he suggested, the focus of operations would be such neighboring countries as Ethiopia and Kenya, into which tens of thousands of Somali refugees have fled.

The source said Japan's personnel contribution would be centered on extending medical and other forms of assistance to refugees. Japan has so far utilized foreign air carriers to ferry its assistance to Somalia.

The Foreign Ministry has been irked by suggestions that Japan's emphasis on check-writing in the case of Somalia is almost a repeat performance of its stance during the Persian Gulf crisis. At that time, Japan drew criticism abroad for refusing to take risks.

Japan is now sending C-130s to Cambodia to support its peacekeepers working there under the auspices of the United Nations.

Tokyo 'Deeply Concerned' Over Bloodshed in India

OW1112103592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1011 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Japan is deeply concerned over the recent bloodshed in India stemming from animosity between Hindus and Muslims, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday.

Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa said in a news conference that Japan "deplores these negative developments in India" and is watching future developments there "with concern."

"Japan hopes that the Indian Government and other parties will make further efforts to bring about a satisfactory and peaceful solution to the situation as soon as possible," he said.

The spokesman said Japan also hopes that coexistence between the Hindus and Muslims in India will be restored.

He said the developments are especially regrettable in light of the fact that bilateral relations between Japan and India have recently been progressing, especially in the economic field.

The Japanese statement coincided with reports that the number of people killed in five days of rioting across India has exceeded 1,000.

The rioting began Monday, the day after militant Hindus destroyed an ancient Islamic mosque to make way for a Hindu temple in the northern town of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh.

New LDP Party Leadership Announced

OW1112070892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0655 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Following is the roster of the new leadership of the governing Liberal Democratic Party.

(Position)	(Name)	(Age)	(Faction)
President	Kiichi Miyazawa	73	Miyazawa
Secretary General	Seiroku Kajiyama	66	Takeshita (Obuchi)
Chairman, Executive Council	Koko Sato	64	Watanabe
Chairman, Policy Affairs, Research Council	Hiroshi Mitsuzuka	65	Mitsuzuka

New Secretary General Profiled

OW1112071892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0707 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Seiroku Kajiyama, the new secretary general of the dominant Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), is known as a powerful politician credited with backroom negotiation skills.

A seven-time member of the House of Representatives from Ibaraki Prefecture, northeast of Tokyo, Kajiyama is reputed to have managed a number of Diet affairs with his "combative" manner and "realistic" political techniques.

Kajiyama, 66, also was a major force in October in gaining the upper hand over archrival Ichiro Ozawa in selecting a new head of the LDP's largest faction to succeed Shin Kanemaru, former don of Japanese politics.

While Kajiyama and other top leaders of the powerful group threw their weight behind Keizo Obuchi, Ozawa loyalists backed Tsutomu Hata as the new leader of the faction founded by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita in 1987.

With Obuchi, a former LDP secretary general, taking the top post, a factional split was inevitable—and Hata, early Friday morning, declared a new faction will be formed. Ozawa is believed to be de facto head of the new group.

Although both Kajiyama and Ozawa were first elected to the House of Representatives in 1969 and acted as key players to help Takeshita take over most of the biggest faction led by former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, they have since been at loggerheads mainly over Ozawa's rising political aspirations.

Political commentator Minoru Morita says Kajiyama and Ozawa are now in a serious state of confrontation. A rapprochement would "almost be a miracle," he says.

In contrast to Ozawa's successful eight-time return to the lower house, Kajiyama lost his Diet seat in the 1976 general election because he defended the then political mentor Tanaka while he was embroiled in a bribery scandal involving the U.S. aircraft maker Lockheed Corp.

As a consequence, he was belatedly given the first cabinet post of home affairs minister in 1987 in the Takeshita cabinet. He then served as international trade and industry minister in the short-lived cabinet of Prime Minister Sousuke Uno in 1989.

The youngest of 10 children, Kajiyama was elected to the Ibaraki prefectural assembly at 29 and became the youngest speaker of a prefectural assembly at the age of 40.

Political analysts say Kajiyama's key task in the top party post will be to spearhead the next general election, expected next year. The LDP must fight an uphill battle for votes in the wake of the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal that led to Kanemaru's retirement.

He unwittingly came under the international spotlight with comments about black Americans in 1990.

As newly appointed justice minister he observed a police crackdown on foreign women suspected of working as prostitutes in a Tokyo entertainment district, and said they lower the tone of the district "like in America when neighborhoods become mixed because blacks move in and whites are forced out."

An uproar followed but Kajiyama kept his post until a cabinet reshuffle in December that year.

Executive Council Head Profiled

OW1112072092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0709 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Koko Sato, a senior member of the Liberal Democratic Party's No. 4 faction led by Michio Watanabe, will serve a second consecutive term as head of the party's decision-making Executive Council.

Because of his involvement in the 1976 Lockheed payoff scandal, Sato, 64, has never been a cabinet minister. He was convicted in 1986 of accepting 2 million yen in bribes from All Nippon Airways.

The Tokyo High Court upheld an earlier Tokyo District Court decision which found Sato guilty and gave him a suspended two-year prison sentence. He did not appeal to the Supreme Court to request that a lower court decision be overturned.

He returned to the LDP after his probation ended.

Although he had been listed in the upper part of the Watanabe faction's roster for forming the cabinet, he was rejected in 1990 by then Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and ended up as LDP deputy secretary general.

As one of the closest aides of former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, Sato accompanied him to Iraq in 1990 to help win the release of 74 Japanese taken hostage there during the Persian Gulf crisis.

A native of Hokkaido, Sato has been returned to the lower house nine times.

LDP Chief Policymaker Profiled

OW1112073592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0719 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, the new chairman of the Policy Affairs Research Council of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), is the head of the party's second largest faction.

He has had speedy promotions since entering the political world in 1972, and also ran for the LDP presidency last fall to compete with Kiichi Miyazawa and Michio Watanabe. He finished third in the election.

Mitsuzuka, 65, took over leadership of the faction in June 1991, replacing former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe after his death.

He won the top faction post after about a month of fierce factional infighting between supporters of Mitsuzuka and Mutsuki Kato, who was ousted from the faction and launched his own group.

Mitsuzuka has served as transport minister, international trade and industry minister, and foreign minister.

He played a key role in smoothing the privatization of the Japanese national railways, both as head of the LDP's transport policy group and later as transport minister.

Mitsuzuka is known to have close ties with former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and Keizo Obuchi as fellow members of Waseda University's debating society.

He has been elected to the House of Representatives seven times from Miyagi Prefecture's No. 1 constituency.

LDP Proposes Single-Seat Constituencies

OW1012105792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1028 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) unveiled a sweeping political reform plan Thursday it said could help bring about a change in power, proposing the introduction of single-seat constituencies for the House of Representatives.

The proposal, approved by the LDP's political reform headquarters, calls for replacing the lower house's 130 multi-seat constituencies with 500 single-seat zones and introducing stricter controls on political fund-raising.

The plan would reduce the number of lower house members from the 512 to 500, and would require redrawing constituencies when the disparity of vote exceeds 2-to-1.

It also calls for deliberation on revising election systems for the House of Councillors and local assemblies.

The proposal says the single-seat constituencies are aimed at "putting in reach a realignment of political parties that would make possible a change in the party in power."

The LDP has been in power since 1955.

The sweeping reforms come at a time when media polls show public support for Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has sunk to a record low of 12-16 percent over the money-and-mobster Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal.

Miyazawa pledged after taking office last November to propose wide-ranging political reforms within a year in order to reduce the cost of elections and eliminate corruption following the series of scandals.

But he is not expected to make quick headway on implementing the plan as it is unpopular with many senior LDP politicians, who fear the single-seat constituencies would render meaningless political support groups cultivated over many years.

In an attempt to preempt stiff opposition to reforms that cost former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu his office a year ago when he unsuccessfully tried to push through similar changes in the election system, the latest plan calls for a third party appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives to redraw constituencies, after the plan is made into law.

Miyazawa is to ask the LDP to discuss the plan further before deciding how to proceed with formulating a law, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said.

On fund-raising, the proposal aims to revise the system to promote party-level funding over donations to individual Diet members.

To do so, it suggests providing public funds to political parties and raising the ceiling on business donations to political parties from 100 million yen to 200 million yen.

To increase transparency, the plan proposes requiring businesses to register donations to political groups if they exceed 120,000 yen per year, rather than 1 million yen at present.

The headquarters also proposed limiting to two the number of fund-raising organizations per politician.

Currently, politicians can obscure the source of funds by establishing numerous organizations that can be hard to trace to a particular person.

In addition to electoral and fund-raising reforms, the plan also calls for revising party policies to diminish the power wielded by the factions that make up the LDP.

The plan advises that the prime minister disregard the seniority system, as well as faction requests, when deciding on the cabinet and top party posts.

At present, a prime minister generally forms his cabinet based on demands submitted by individual factions. A rule of thumb is that lower house members who have been elected at least six times are eligible for a cabinet post.

The proposal also calls for a ban on the transfer of political funds from one politician to another. Faction leaders typically woo support from other politicians by distributing funds.

The plan also advises barring cabinet members and vice ministers from taking on party duties related to their ministry for a certain period of time after leaving the post.

Partial Reallocation of Diet Seats Bill Enacted

OW1012150792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1447 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—The Diet enacted a bill Thursday night to partially reallocate Diet seats to reduce the vote disparity between constituencies for House of Representatives seats and a package of emergency political reform programs.

The bill to amend the public offices election law passed the House of Councillors with the backing of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and opposition parties Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP).

The No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) voted against it, saying the bill contradicted a 1986 Diet resolution calling for dramatic reform of Diet seats.

The reallocation will be implemented at the next general election to be held by February 1994.

In defiance of a party decision to oppose the bill, Tadashi Kobayashi, an SDP member, voted for it, as did another SDP member in the House of Representatives.

The bill envisages adding one seat each in nine underrepresented constituencies and paring one seat each from 10 overrepresented electorates, ultimately subtracting one seat from the 512-member lower house.

The bill will whittle down the maximum disparity in vote value from 3.38 to 1 to 2.77 to 1.

The Supreme Court ruled in 1983 a disparity of more than 3 to 1 in the value of a vote runs counter to the principle of equality in the Constitution, making it technically illegal for a prime minister to call a snap election without redressing the disparity.

The reapportionment will mark the fourth of its kind in the lower house since World War II. It will be the first since 1986, when the chamber added eight seats to some constituencies and took away seven from others.

The House of Councillors also approved a package of emergency political reform bills with the blessing of the LDP, SDP, DSP, and Komeito, but the JCP voted against it.

The package seeks a maximum penalty of a one year's jail for politicians who receive political donations exceeding the legal ceiling.

It also calls for disenfranchising those convicted of taking bribes serving suspended sentences and empowers authorities to confiscate illegal political contributions.

The package also prevents parliamentarians from raising money through having officials of government ministries and agencies sell tickets for fund-raising parties on their behalf.

It obligates all Diet members, prefectural governors, and prefectural assembly members to disclose their assets.

Finance Minister on Forming New LDP Faction

OW1012170992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1649 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata declared early Friday [11 December] morning that he will form a new faction within the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), splitting the largest faction founded by Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita. Hata, a protege of former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, made the announcement at a press conference at a Tokyo hotel soon after the extraordinary Diet session ended Thursday.

Hata said, "I will take a new step to break the political deadlock."

Aime Funada, spokesman for the faction, said it will be formed on the basis of "Reform Forum 21," a policy study group within the faction. Funada suggested that an inauguration ceremony for the faction would take place next Friday.

Loyalists to Ozawa within the faction established the forum of 36 members of the House of Representatives in October amid a power struggle in the 109-member Takeshita faction. Funada said the Hata faction will seek more members from the House of Councillors. The faction is expected to be the fifth-largest LDP faction with some 40 members.

Hata said he wants to restore public trust in government after the current money-and-mob scandal, and to overhaul the electoral system to realign Japan's political map.

The resignation of Shin Kanemaru as lower house member and head of the Takeshita faction triggered intrafaction strife between the pro-Ozawa camp and the anti-Ozawa group led by former LDP Secretary General Keizo Obuchi. Former kingpin Kanemaru gave up his Diet seat on October 14 after he received a summary indictment for accepting an illicit 500 million yen political donation from the now-defunct trucking firm Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., which is at the heart of the scandal.

The pro-Ozawa group formed the forum after Obuchi was endorsed as new faction chairman to succeed Kanemaru. The Ozawa camp had backed Hata as faction chairman.

In July 1987, Takeshita declared independence from the faction led by former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka and formed a bloc formally called "Keisei-kai." Kanemaru assumed the chairmanship of the faction in the same year after Takeshita became prime minister. It was the decisive influence in installing three subsequent prime ministers, including Kiichi Miyazawa.

Diet Vote on Supplementary Budget Delayed

OW1012073292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0701 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—The passing of the economically vital supplementary budget is expected to delay to Thursday night as the ruling and opposition parties remained at odds on how to handle the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin mobster-and-money scandal.

In the House of Councillors, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) rejected a motion drafted by the Social Democratic Party (SDP) seeking to get to the bottom of the scandal, party officials said.

The LDP rejected the SDP plan in a meeting of chairmen of Diet Affairs Committees from the LDP, SDP, Komeito, the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), and Rengo Sangiin, saying that the submission of a resolution to the Diet should be made unanimously.

As a result of the confrontation, the voting at the upper house on the supplementary budget, intended to finance a large part of the government's 10.7 trillion yen pump-priming package, may well drag on into Thursday night, Diet sources said.

The more powerful House of Representives has already passed the supplementary budget.

In the lower house Thursday, two opposition-sponsored motions that call for former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's resignation from the Diet and further investigation of the scandal were scrapped after the LDP rejected the demand by the opposition for deliberations of the motions in a lower house plenary session, parliamentary sources said.

The decision was made at a meeting of the Steering Committee, the sources said.

The SDP, Komeito, and the DSP have presented the two resolutions to the lower house.

Takeshita has testified in both chambers of the Diet during the current extraordinary session and denied the allegations that an organized crime syndicate boss helped him become ruling party leader and thus prime minister in 1987.

The current extraordinary Diet session, initially scheduled to end Tuesday, was extended until Thursday because most of the session was spent discussing the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal.

Minister Says Extra Budget To Bolster Economy

OW1012161592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1548 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Thursday the Diet approval of a supplementary budget for fiscal 1992 will have a favorable effect on the nation's economic activity.

"The extra budget features spending designed to implement a package of pump-priming measures (adopted in late August)," he said.

The supplementary budget calls for spending an additional 2.99 trillion yen on public works projects and investment under the government's fiscal investments and loans program.

Outgoing Finance Minister Urges Fiscal Reform

OW1112040992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0333 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Outgoing Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata urged his successor on Friday to promote fiscal reform and to concentrate on long-lasting economic growth led by domestic demand.

Hata was speaking at his final news conference as finance minister ahead of a cabinet reshuffle. Prime Minister Kiichi Miyawaza was expected to name a successor later Friday.

Hata said steps needed to push ahead with financial reforms included the lowering of "fire walls" in various financial sectors while stepping up Japan's contribution to the world—in both fiscal and technological terms.

He also said the government must devote more thought to the problems of Japan's aging population. For this reason, he said the floating of debt-financing bonds should be avoided.

He described his 400 days in office as a turbulent period, noting that the benchmark stock index fluctuated more than 10,000 points. During this same period the U.S. dollar swayed between 119 and 134 yen levels on the foreign exchange market.

The official discount rate was lowered four times during his term, to the current level of 3.25 percent. Hata played a major role as finance chief in introducing the 10.7 trillion yen pump-priming package to salvage the nation's economy.

Of that effort, Hata said, "Although it may not have started to clearly appear yet, signs of recovery are beginning to emerge."

New Finance Minister Discusses Goals, Budget

OW1112133392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1243 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Japan's new Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi said Friday he will seek to promote national economic recovery by stimulating domestic demand for a sustained growth.

Hayashi, meeting reporters with other members of the new cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, said his ministry will work hard to compile the fiscal 1993 budget with the cooperation of other government agencies.

But he expressed doubts about proposed income tax cuts, saying they would have little effect in stimulating consumer spending.

Other means should be devised for that purpose, he said.

International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori said he will also seek to promote quick economic recovery.

He said he will try to improve relations with the United States and seek an early settlement of the Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks.

At the talks, Japan is facing increasing international pressure for it to open its rice market.

Mori said Japan must make a difficult decision for freer world trade.

Masami Tanabu, retained as agriculture, forestry, and fisheries minister, said he will do his best to move the Uruguay round toward a settlement that would reflect Japan's position. He returned to Tokyo earlier in the day from a trip to Washington and Brussels to seek understanding on Japan's rice policy.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Junichiro Koizumi said a complete review of the Japanese postal savings system is required since there have been allegations that it is taking funds away from commercial banks.

Construction Minister Kishiro Nakamura said Japan must improve its social infrastructure to let the public enjoy a higher standard of living.

Takashi Inoue, director general of the National Land Agency, said land prices in Japan's big cities have been falling and should fall further.

Ministry 'Plans To Freeze' Consumer Rice Prices

OW1112101092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0955 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries plans to freeze the prices the government will charge retailers when it sells rice and wheat produced this year, ministry sources said Friday.

The ministry will make a final decision on the matter after holding an advisory panel meeting on rice prices Tuesday.

If implemented, the price freeze would be the first in three years for consumer rice prices and in seven years for wheat prices.

The sources said the move reflects an earlier government decision to keep intact producer prices at which the government buys rice and wheat from farmers.

Currently, the consumer price for unpolished rice is set at 18,123 yen per 60 kilogram sack. The price for 60 kilograms of wheat is 2,967 yen, for 50 kilograms of barley it is 2,149 yen, and 60 kilograms of rye sells for 2,820 yen.

NSC: Aomori Nuclear Reprocessing Plant 'Safe'

OW1012104792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1018 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—The Nuclear Safety Commission [NSC] concluded Thursday that a nuclear fuel reprocessing facility planned to be built in Aomori Prefecture is safe, commission officials said.

The commission said the plant to produce plutonium from spent nuclear fuel, to be built in Rokkasho, Aomori Prefecture, is safe even considering the possibility of an F-15 fighter plane from the nearby Misawa U.S. Air Force Base crashing into the area, the officials said.

The advisory body to the prime minister said that even if such an accident occurred, nearby residents would not be exposed to "much" radiation.

The government is expected to give the go-ahead for the plant's construction by the end of the year.

The construction is likely to begin in March 1993 and the plant will begin operation in 2000, according to Japan Nuclear Fuel Co., which manages the uranium enrichment, nuclear waste storage, and reprocessing facilities in Rokkasho.

The Rokkasho nuclear fuel recycling complex being built as part of Japan's program to meet future energy needs consists of three key facilities—a uranium enrichment plant, a low-level nuclear waste storage center, and the reprocessing plant for spent nuclear fuel.

The reprocessing plant, which would reprocess spent nuclear fuel from power plants throughout Japan to recover plutonium and usable uranium, is the focal facility among the three.

The plutonium would be used to fuel fast breeder reactors, which constitute a vital but controversial element of the government's nuclear power policy.

Currently, Japan's spent fuel currently has to be shipped to France and Britain for reprocessing.

Once the Rokkasho facility is fully operational, it is estimated to be capable of reprocessing some 800 tons of spent nuclear fuel annually, extracting 4.5 to five tons of plutonium, which is equivalent to about 60 percent of the nation's reprocessing requirements, according to the operators.

Last month, Japan Nuclear Fuel Co. submitted a revised schedule for the reprocessing plant to the Science and Technology Agency.

The revision called for delaying the start of the construction work, originally scheduled for October, to next March to carry out safety inspections more rigorous than previously anticipated.

The first round of safety checks for the reprocessing plant project was completed in August 1991.

Criteria Eased for Hiring Foreign Trainees

OW1012005392 Tokyo KYODO in English 2302 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—The Justice Ministry on Thursday announced a new ordinance easing restrictions on the hiring of foreign trainees for on-the-job training in Japan.

The order came into force immediately, officials said.

Under the new regulations, minor enterprises as well as agricultural cooperatives will be allowed to hire three to 15 foreign trainees according to their size, officials said.

The number of trainees at a single farming household will be limited to two.

Under the old regulations, foreigners could be employed as trainees under programs sponsored by business organizations like the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

They can now gain work experience in the agricultural business, at vocational training organizations and at international training institutions.

In 1991 Japan accepted about 43,000 foreign trainees for on-the-job training. China topped the list with 10,600 trainees, followed by Thailand with 6,200 and the Philippines with 4,400.

North Korea

New Premier, Other Officials Named; Assembly Meets

Kang Song-san Proposed

SK1012222592 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 10 Dec 92

["Report on the 20th plenary meeting of the Sixth Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee"]

[Text] The 20th plenary meeting of the Sixth WPK Central Committee was held on 10 December. The great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song, the general secretary of the WPK Central Committee, chaired the plenary meeting.

The plenary meeting was participated in by the members and alternate members of the party Central Committee and members of the party Central Inspection Committee.

The plenary meeting discussed the party Central Committee's proposal on the formation of government plan to be submitted to and deliberated on at the Fourth Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA].

The plenary meeting discussed the proposal of the party Central Committee for dismissing Comrade Yon Hyong-muk from the office of premier of the State Administration Council and appointing Comrade Kang Song-san as new premier of the State Adminstration Council, and decided to refer it to the deliberation of the SPA.

The plenary meeting adopted relevant decisions. The plenary meeting also discussed an organizational matter.

The plenary meeting elected Comrade Kim Tal-hyon and Comrade Kim Yong-sun to be alternate members of the party Central Committee Political Bureau. The plenary meeting elected Comrade Kim Kuk-tae and Comrade Kim Ki-nam to be secretaries of the party Cental Committee. The plenary meeting promoted Comrade Choe Pong-man, Comrade Chang Song-taek, Comrade Kim Chang-ho, Comrade Chong Ha-chol, Comrade Kim Ki-yong, Comrade Cha Yong-chin, Comrade Kim Yong-yong, Comrade Kim Chong-kak, and Comrade Paek Chang-sik from the position of alternate members to the position of members of the party Central Committee. The plenary meeting elected Comrade Pak Myong-chol, Comrade Han Ki-chang, Comrade Kim Su-hak, Comrade Yi Yong-sop, Comrade Yi Song-pok, Comrade Kwon Min-chun, Comrade Kim Chung-hyop, Comrade Yi Song-tae, and Comrade Yim Sang-chong to be alternate members of the party Central Committee. The plenary meeting elected Comrade Yi Pong-kil to be chairman of the party Central Control Committee [Chungang Komyol Wiwonhoe].

KCNA Reports Kang Proposed

SK1012233692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2135 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] December 11 (KCNA)—The 20th plenary meeting of the sixth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] was held on December 10.

The meeting was presided over by the great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Present there were members and alternate members of the C.C. [Central Committee] of the WPK and members of the Central Auditing Commission of the party.

Discussed at the meeting was the recommendation of the C.C., the WPK on the formation of the government which will be submitted to the fourth session of the ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA].

The meeting discussed the recommendations of the C.C. of the WPK on relieving Yon Hyong-muk of the post of premier of the Administration Council and appointing Kang Song-san new premier and decided to present it for deliberation at the session. The meeting adopted relevant decisions. It also discussed the organizational matter. Kim Tal-hyon and Kim Yong-sun were elected alternate members of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK to fill the vacancy.

Kim Kuk-tae and Kim Ki-nam were elected secretaries of the Central Committee of the WPK.

Choe Pong-man, Chang Song-taek, Kim Chang-ho, Chong Ha-chol, Kim Ki-yong, Cha Yong-chin, Kim Yong-yong, Kim Chong-kak and Paek Chang-sik were promoted to members of the C.C., the WPK from alternate members.

Pak Myong-chol, Han Ki-chang, Kim Su-hak, Yi Yong-sop, Yi Song pok, Kwon Min-chun, Kim Chong-hyop, Yi Song-tae and Yim Sang-chong were elected alternate members of the C.C., the WPK to fill the vacancy.

Yi Pong-kil was elected chairman of the Central Control Committee of the WPK.

Decree Announces Council Reshuffle

SK1112033392 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0305 GMT 11 Dec 92

[DPRK Central People's Committee's decree on dismissing and appointing some members of the DPRK Administration Council issued 11 December 1992—read by announcer]

[Text] The DPRK Central People's Committee [CPC] has decided the following:

1. Comrade Hong Si-hak has been dismissed [haeim] from the post of vice premier of the Administration Council.

2. Comrade Choe Yong-nim has been dismissed [[haeim] from the post of chairman of the State Planning Committee and has been appointed vice premier of the Administration Council and minister of Metal Industry.

3. Comrade Kim Tal-hyon has been dismissed [haeim] from the post of chairman of the External Economic Committee and has been appointed to be vice premier of the Administration Council and chairman of the State Planning Committee.

4. Comrade Kim Hwan has been appointed to be vice premier of the Administration Council and minister of Chemical Industry.

5. Comrade Yi Song-tae has been appointed to be chairman of the External Economic Committee.

[Signed] Kim Il-song, president of the DPRK
[Dated] 11 December 1992, Pyongyang

KCNA Reports Reshuffle

SK1112042592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0411 GMT 11 Dec 92

["Some Members of Administration Council Discharged and Appointed"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 11 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea promulgated a decree of the Central People's Committee on the discharge and appointment of some members of the Administration Council.

According to the decree of the Central People's Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea dated December 11, Hong Si-hak has been relieved of the post of vice-premier of the Administration Council, Choe Yong-nim has been relieved of the post of chairman of the State Planning Commission and appointed vice- premier of the Administration Council and concurrently minister of metal industry, Kim Tal-hyon has been relieved of the post of chairman of the external economy commission and appointed Vice-premier of the Administration Council and concurrently chairman of the State Planning Commission, Kim Hwan has been appointed vice-premier of the Administration Council and concurrently minister of chemical industry and Yi Song-tae appointed chairman of the external economy commission.

Choe Man-hyon has been relieved of the post of minister of metal industry and Chu Kil-pon of the post of minister of chemical industry.

Decree Announces Ministers' Dismissals

SK1112033892 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0306 GMT 11 Dec 92

[DPRK Central People's Committee decree on dismissing ministers of the DPRK Administration Council issued 11 December 1992—read by announcer]

[Text] The DPRK Central People's Committee has decided as follows:

1. Comrade Choe Man-hyon has been dismissed [haeim] from the post of minister of metal industry.

2. Comrade Chu Kil-pon has been dismissed [haeim] from the post of minister of chemical industry.

[signed] Kim Il-song, president of the DPRK
[dated] 11 December 1992, Pyongyang

Pyongyang Radio on Assembly Session

SK1112115892 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1000 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] The Fourtth Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was held at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on 11 December.

The session was held under the upsurged circumstances in which all the people across the people, who are single-heartedly united around the party and the leader, are vigorously accelerating the revolutionary grand march of the 1990's to complete the socialist cause.

The session was attended by deputies to the SPA.

DPRK President Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and our people, and Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau, secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee, and the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, mounted the platform.

Members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, members of the Political Bureau, alternate members of the Political Bureau, members of the Central People's Committee, and members of the SPA Standing Committee also occupied the platform.

The chairman and vice chairmen of the SPA occupied their seats.

Chairman Yang Hyong-sop delivered an opening speech.

The following agenda was adopted at the session:

1. On the adoption of the law on forests of the DPRK.

2. On the endorsement of the laws adopted by the SPA Standing Committee of the DPRK during the recess of the SPA.

3. Organizational matters.

Deputy Kye Ung-tae, chairman of the Legislation Committee of the SPA, made a report on the first item "On the Adoption of the DPRK Law on Forests" and submitted it to the 4th session of the Ninth SPA for its endorsement.

"On the Adoption of the DPRK Law on Forests," that is, a law of the DPRK SPA, was adopted with unanimous approval at the session.

At the session, Chairman Yang Hyong-sop made a report on the second agenda item, "On the endorsement of the laws adopted by the SPA Standing Committee of the DPRK during the recess of the SPA."

He pointed out that during the period from the third session of the Ninth SPA to the fourth session, the law on the national flag of the DPRK, the law on foreigners' investment; the law on contractual joint venture, and the law on foreign enterprises, were deliberated and adopted. He forwarded these laws to the fourth session of the ninth SPA for approval.

At the session, "On the endorsement of 'on the adoption of the law on the national flag of the DPRK', a decision of the SPA Standing Committee of the DPRK" and "On the endorsement of 'on the adoption of the DPRK law on foreigners' investment,' 'on the adoption of the DPRK law on contractual joint venture' and 'on the adoption of the DPRK law on foreign enterprises', decisions of the SPA Standing Committee of the DPRK" which are laws of the SPA of the DPRK, were adopted with unanimous approval.

The session discussed the third agenda item.

Deputy Won Tong-ku was relieved [songhwan hada] of the post of a member of the SPA Standing Committee and Deputy Han Ki-chan was elected as a member of the SPA Standing Committee.

At the proposal of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the president of the DPRK, Choe won-ik was elected president of the Central Court of the DPRK.

Deputy Han Sang-kyu was dismissed [haeim] from the post of the procurator general of the Central Procurator's Office of the DPRK.

At the proposal of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the president of the DPRK, Yi Yong-sop was appointed to the post of the procurator general of the Central Procurator's Office.

The session also discussed the issue of relieving [songhwan] and electing premier of the Administration Council of the DPRK.

The session discussed the proposal of the WPK Central Committee to relieve [songhwan] Deputy Yon Hyong-muk of the post of the premier of the Administration Council of the DPRK, and decided to relieve him. [songhwanul kyolchong hada].

At the proposal of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the president of the DPRK, Deputy Kang Song-san was elected premier of the Administration Council of the DPRK.

At the session, Deputy Kang Song-san, who was elected as the premier of the Administration Council, solemnly took an oath before the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the president of the DPRK, to make his utmost efforts to faithfully perform the heavy duty assigned to him.

At the session, Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the SPA, made a closing speech.

KCNA Reports on Assembly Session

SK1112104492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 11 (KCNA)—The 4th session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was held at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

The great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il mounted the platform.

The following agenda were adopted at the session:

1. On the adoption of the law on forests of the DPRK.
2. On the endorsement of the laws adopted by the SPA standing committee of the DPRK during the recess of the SPA.
3. Organizational matters.

"On the adoption of the DPRK law on forests," a law of the SPA of the DPRK, was adopted with unanimous approval at the session.

"On the endorsement of 'on the adoption of the law on the national flag of the DPRK', a decision of the SPA standing committee of the DPRK" and "on the endorsement of 'on the adoption of the DPRK law on foreigners' investment,' 'on the adoption of the DPRK law on contractual joint venture' and 'on the adoption of the DPRK law on foreign enterprises', decisions of the SPA standing committee of the DPRK which are laws of the SPA of the DPRK, were adopted with unanimous approval.

The session discussed the third agenda item.

Won Tong-gu was relieved of the post of a member of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly and Han Ki-chang was elected to fill the vacancy.

Choe Won-ik was elected president of the Central Court of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Han Sang-gyu was relieved of the post of the procurator general of the Central Procurator's Office of the DPRK to assume another post and Yi Yong-sop was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Yon Hyong-muk was relieved of the post of the premier of the Administration Council to assume another post and Kang Song-san was elected premier of the Administration Council.

Variant KCNA Assembly Report

SK1112110992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1049 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 11 (KCNA)—The 4th session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was held at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

It was attended by deputies to the SPA.

The great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader comrade Kim Chong-il mounted the platform.

A member of the presidium of the Politburo, members and alternate members of the Politburo of the C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK [Workers Party of Korea], members of the Central People's Committee, and members of the Standing Committee of the SPA also occupied the platform.

The following agenda was adopted at the session:

1. On the adoption of the law on forests of the DPRK.

2. On the endorsement of the laws adopted by the SPA standing committee of the DPRK during the recess of the SPA.

3. Organizational matters.

Deputy Kye Ung-tae, chairman of the Legislation Committee of the SPA, made a report on the first item "on the adoption of the DPRK law on forests."

"On the adoption of the DPRK law on forests," a law of the SPA of the DPRK, was adopted with unanimous approval at the session.

SPA chairman Yang Hyong-sop made a report on the second item "on the endorsement of the laws adopted by the SPA standing committee of the DPRK during the recess of the SPA."

"On the endorsement of 'on the adoption of the law on the national flag of the DPRK', a decision of the SPA standing committee of the DPRK" and "on the endorsement of 'on the adoption of the DPRK law on foreigners' investment', 'on the adoption of the DPRK law on contractual joint venture' and 'on the adoption of the DPRK law on foreign enterprises', decisions of the SPA standing committee of the DPRK" which are laws of the SPA of the DPRK, were adopted with unanimous approval.

The session discussed the third item.

Deputy Won Tong-gu was relieved of the post of a member of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly and Deputy Han Ki-chang was elected to fill the vacancy.

At the proposal of President Kim Il-song, Choe Won-ik was elected president of the Central Court of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Deputy Han Sang-gyu was relieved of the post of the procurator general of the Central Procurator's Office of the DPRK and at the proposal of President Kim il sung, Yi Yong-sop was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The proposal of the C.C., the WPK to relieve Deputy Yon Hyong-muk of the post of the premier of the Administration Council was discussed and adopted.

At the proposal of President Kim Il-song, Deputy Kang Song-san was elected premier of the Administration Council of the DPRK.

At the session, Kang Song-san solemnly took an oath before President Kim Il-song to make his utmost efforts to faithfully perform the heavy duty assigned to him.

KCNA Details New Forest Law

SK1112120992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1059 GMT 11 Dec 92

["DPRK Law on Forests"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 11 (KCNA)—The law on forests of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was adopted at the Fourth Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly held here today.

The law consists of five chapters and 47 articles including the basis of the law, creation of forests, forest conservation, utilization of forest resources and guidance and control of forest management.

It codifies the achievements made in the management of forests and legalizes the plan and intention of the Workers' Party of Korea to bring about a new turn in this domain.

It indicates tasks and ways for planting and tending trees and expanding forest resources through a nationwide mass movement according to the general plan of forest building and the state plan.

The law defines the system and order to make the entire people take part in the conservation of forests with deep interest, as the master should, and strictly protect the forest resources from any kind of damage and indicates tasks and ways for making a more rational and effective use of forest resources.

It also sets tasks to strengthen the unitary guidance of the state for forest management, take state measures for the consolidation of the material and technical foundations in this domain and further increase the role of the supervisory and control organs.

The adoption of the law will mark an epoch-making occasion in demonstrating the advantages of Korean-style socialism centred on the popular masses, accelerating socialist economic construction and improving the people's living by expanding forest resources.

Further Reportage on Intellectuals Conference

Choe Tae-pok Berates Capitalism

SK1012032992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1638 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 9 (KCNA)—Choe Tae-pok, secretary of the C.C. the Workers Party of Korea [WPK], criticized capitalism as a beastly uncivilized world were the intellect of humanities commercialized and intellectuals are reduced to slaves to capital, and praised socialism as a true civilized world where the intellect of humanity is most valued and the intellectuals are honored as dignified masters of society.

His lengthy report of the Korean intellectuals meeting which opened here today elaborates on the great success of the WPK's policy toward intellectuals and the tasks of the Korean intellectuals to resolutely defend and glorify socalism.

The reporter said: The realities of the countries where capitalism is being restored show that the collapse of socialism means the ruin of intellectual.

A serious economic bankruptcy and the [words indistinct] fashion of society has robbed the intellectuals of the site of true creative activities and a happy life and plunged them into an extreme spiritual and moral bankruptcy and severe hardships of life.

Money is life in capitalist society whereas ideology is that in socialist society. Socialism wins when the popular masses are armed with socialism and united into one on its basis, and it falls when they are sick ideologically.

Capitalism is a beastly uncivilized world where the intellect of humanity is comercialized an the intellectuals are reduce to slaves of capital, but socialism is a true civilized world where the intellect of humanity is most valued and the intellectuals are honored as dignified masters of society. Our intellectuls must resolutely fight against capitalism revisionism dogmatism, flunkeyism and al other outmoded and reactionary ideas and prevent any slight element of them from infiltrating into our society.

Altough the socialist cause is facing serious hardships and challenges, there is not the slightest vacillation in the Korean intellectuals faith in socialism.

Our intellectuals must make their utmost efforts to consolidate and glorify our socialism roots deep in this land, deeply conscious of the high pride and honour and heavy responsibility as revolutionary intellect as of chuche Korea.

'Brilliant Victory' of Intellectuals

SK1012064492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0508 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 10 (KCNA)—Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], made a report at the Korean intellectuals meeting which opened here yesterday with a large attendance.

The reporter summed up the brilliant victory of the WPK's policy toward intellectuals and set forth tasks facing them in firmly defending and glorifying socialism.

The meeting heard speeches of Prof. and Dr. Kim Chol-sik, first vice-president of the Academy of Social Sciences; Yi Hae-yong, deputy director of a department of the Korean Central News Agency; Dr. and assistant Prof. Kim Chong-song, director of the Industrial Technology Institute of the Songjin Steel Complex; "Kim Il-song Prize" laureate, labor hero, academician, Prof. and Dr. So Sang-kuk, head of a chair of Kim Il-song University; labor hero, merited scientist and associate Dr. Kim Pyong-sok, a lecturer at the Grand People's Study House; "Kim Il-song prize" laureate and labor hero Paek In-chun, chairman of the C.C. the General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Arts of Korea; merited journalist Choe Yong-tok, room chief of NODONG SINMUN; corresponding member of the academy of social sciences, Prof. and Dr. Yi Won-kyong, a researcher of Kim Il-song university; People's Journalist Kang Chol- pu, director and editor-in-chief of the Kumsong youth publishing house; and Kim Chin-su, president of the Pyongyang maternity hospital; and labor hero, Dr. and Assistant Prof. Kim Kil-yon, room chief of the mechanical engineering institute of the Academy of Sciences.

The speakers said that our intellectuals' faith in socialism today has been highly elevated to an unshakable faith in the idea and leadership of the party and the leader and to pure allegiance to the leader.

They expressed their determination to deepen their confidence in socialism and revolutionize and working-classize themselves to be eternal companions of the party and faithful intellectuals for the cause of socialism.

They said they will actively contribute to further increasing the economic potential of the country and lifting science and technology to a world level by thinking and solving all problems our own way from the chuche-based stand.

The speakers stated that they would live and work as dependable standard-bearers of the ideological front who defend the ideological purity and the revolutionary principle of the chuche-oriented culture and art, creditably carry forward and develop the immortal feats performed by the party in the literary and art field and explain and propagandize the policies of our party by going among the people to cover news and write articles and bring to full play the advantages of Korean-style socialism in which people live in harmony, helping and leading each other along through the service-with-sincerity movement.

They stressed that the Korean intellectuals would share the destiny with the party forever as companions of the party without a moment's hesitation and vacillation in whatever raging storm in the future and follow the party's leadership with loyalty.

Speeches continue.

'Imperialists' Will Not 'Shake' Intellectuals

SK1012003792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1625 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 9 (KCNA)—In his report at the Korean intellectuals meeting today Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea, said: The imperialists and the foes of revolution of all hues are now persistently trying to blow the wind of bourgeois liberalization into the socialist countries under the cloak of "democracy" so as to disorganize the ranks of intellectuals in those countries. But this can never shake the Korean intellectuals.

He further said:

In some countries which were building socialism intellectuals fled abroad, betraying the motherland and people, or played into the hands of the imperialists and reactionaries in their anti-socialist moves. But the faith of the Korean intellectuals in socialism remains unshaken.

The Korean intellectuals who regard it as the highest pride of an independent man to devote themselves, heart and soul, to the noble struggle to realize the independence of the popular masses, work and live in a revolutionary way in all fields, holding dearer a life devoted to the creation of happiness than enoying it.

They are now working hard to bring the advantages of Korea-style socialism centred on the popular masses into full play in all fields and demonstrate the resourcefulness and dignity of the nation by developing socialist contruction to a new, higher stage under the banner of the three revolutions ideological, technical and cultural.

NODONG SINMUN: Intellectuals Loyal

SK0412112192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 4 Dec 92

["Loyalty to Leader is Basic Trait of Korean Intellectuals"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 4 (KCNA)—The Korean intellectuals are following the party and the leader with the deepest reverence and the most pure and clean single heart of loyalty and filial piety and regard it as their great pride and honour to live and work devotedly for the party even if they lived a moment, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The article says:

The noble traits of our intellectuals faithful to the party's cause lie, above all, in that they absolutely trust and follow only their party and leader and are filled with the firm determination to cast in their lot with the party for ever.

An unshakable stand and viewpoint that they know none but the party and the leader are now prevailing in our intellectuals' ranks. Our party's is the bosom of eternal guide to which they can entrust entirely the destinies of their own and their posterity, and their boundless happiness and bright future is guaranteed by the benevolent care of the party. This is the unanimous ideological sentiments which fill the hearts of all the Korean intellectuals. With such noble spiritual world, our intellectuals are upholding the party and the leader with the most ardent reverence and pure and clean single heart of loyalty and filial duty.

The noble traits of our intellectuals loyal to the party's cause are highly displayed in resolutely adhering to the principle of socialism in any circumstances, regarding the chuche idea, the revolutionary idea of our party, as their unshakable faith.

They are taking the great chuche idea as their firm faith and the starting-point of all thinking and activities and fully and promptly disclosing the reactionary nature of all shades of anti-socialist ideological trends by dint of the profound principles of the chuche idea.

All the corrupt capitalist ideology and culture can never infiltrate into our society and all the fields of revolution and construction including politics, the economy and culture are developing nominally and virtually in keeping with the essential nature of the socialist society. This is unthinkable apart from the role of our intellectuals, which tells that our intellectuals are ideologically steadfast and successfully discharging their mission as staunch champions and propagators of ideas and theories of our party.

The noble traits of our intellectuals faithful to the party's cause are highly displayed in placing the interests of the party and revolution above their own and devoting all their knowledges and talents to the efforts to carry the party's far-reaching plans into practice.

KCNA Lauds Intellectuals

SK0912111292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1003 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang Dec. 9 (KCNA)—Intellectuals of the Korean academy of agricultural sciences have made a great contribution to increasing agricultural production.

They have produced hundreds of new high-yielding species, bringing the per hectare yield of rice to 8 tons and maize to more than 10 tons.

The intellectuals engaged in seed breeding paved the way for a new turn in double cropping by planting high-yielding and early-ripening wheat as the first crop and sorghun and maize as the after crop in Ongjin and Kangyong peninsula, South Hwanghae Province, gathering In-more than 15 tons from each hectare.

The results in the researches into the cultivation of new species of vegetables have contributed to producing Korean cabbage and radish in spring and summer, though they had been produced only in autumn, and increasing the yceld of cabbage more than 3 to 4 times by growing it not only in spring but also in summer and autumn.

And they have bred various species of hothouse vegetables, making it possible to provide the people with fresh vegetables all the year round.

Intellectuals Spur Economic Growth

SK0912011792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2238 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 8 (KCNA)—Korean intellectuals have greatly contributed to the growth of the economic potential of the country by taking an active part in socialist construction.

Their scientific and technical feats can be found in the monumental edifices built in all parts of the country.

The West Sea barrage of gigantic scale damming off an 8 kilometre section of the rough sea was completed by soldier-builders of the Korean People's Army in cooperation with intellectuals.

A host of technological problems cropped up in the construction of this barrage with its main dam 8 km in length, lock rooms No. 1, 2 and 3 and spillway with 31 sluice gates and auxiliary spillway with 5 sluice gates.

All these problems were solved by competent scientists mainly of the Hydraulic Engineering Institute and of the construction mechanization institute, the building-materials institute, the geographical institute and the mathematical institute under the Academy of Sciences.

They created an amazing construction speed by solving some 420 complicated scientific and technological problems by their own efforts in the course of the construction of the barrage.

The West Sea barrage was built as an edifice of eternal value whose solidness and stableness are guaranteed scientifically and technologically in a short period of five years.

Intellectuals are active in different domains of the national economy.

The 10,000-ton press which is operating in full capacity, demonstrating the might of the independent economy of Korea, was designed and manufactured by the group of intellectuals and workers of the Yongsong general machine bureau. The group of technicians there designed over 70,200 parts of 3,000 kinds in a few months and manufactured the press by their own efforts and technology in one year or more.

The group of technicians of the Rakwon machine complex completed a 6,000-cubic metre oxygen plant by its efforts and technology in a short space of time.

Our intellectuals have opened a wide avenue of the development of iron and steel industry by devising chuche-based metallurgical methods, and invented vinalon, reed fibre and movilon, a new chuche fibre.

A sizable success has been registered in breeding and cultivating methods of crops and big progress made in developing basic science and opening a new scientific field by their role.

Korean intellectuals have produced 1,000 odd inventions of nationwide value in the first 10 months of the year.

Their inventions were highly appraised at international exhibitions.

Gold and silver medals were awarded respectively to the "high-efficiency micro-channel electronic cord amplifier" and "passive infrared rays source detector" at the international invention and new technology exhibition in Geneva in April and a gold medal to "digital cell fusion device" in the Beijing international invention exhibition in October.

Gold and other medals and prizes were awarded to more than 200 scientific and technological inventions at international invention exhibitions over the last six years.

Intellectuals From Japan Laud Kim Il-song

SK1012111892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 10 (KCNA)—Korean intellectuals from Japan staying in the homeland spoke about their honor of being intellectuals of the homeland of chuche.

Kwon Sun-hui, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), said that the opening of the Korean intellectuals meeting in the homeland demonstrates the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who is leading the socialist cause along a road of shining victory and embracing the intellectuals in the bosom of love and the great vitality of Korean-style socialism.

In the past days when the country and the power were lost our overseas Korean intellectuals were forced to a life unfit for humanity, wandering about like a floating blade of grass with the sorrow of a ruined people and subjected to national humiliation and maltreatment. But they embarked upon the road of a genuine life as a component of the driving force of revolution when the great leader President Kim Il-song liberated the country and instilled into the minds of the overseas Koreans great pride and honor of being citizens of chuche Korea, he noted, and continued:

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il bestows upon our intellectuals such honour as putting them up as eternal companions of revolution and shows loving care to them, assuming full responsibility for their destiny, today when intellectuals are tossed about as "commodities" for existence and they even challenge the revolutionary cause of the working class in the countries where socialism has collapsed and in the capitalist countries.

Declaring that many intellectuals are being trained by Chongnyon today under the rays of "*Theses on Socialist Education*" published by the great leader, he said: Bearing deep in our minds the honor and pride of being overseas intellectuals of the homeland of chuche, we will devote our all to the patriotic work of Chongnyon for the accomplishment of the cause of the Korean revolution and national reunification.

Academician Pak Yong-kon, chairman of the Central Standing Council of the Association of Korean Social Scientists in Japan and Vice-president of Korea University [in Japan], said that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il saw to it that a birthday table imbued with benevolence was arranged for him in September and this time the title of academician of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the highest honor of a scientist, was awarded to him.

I firmly resove to share the destiny with the socialist homeland to the end, deeply cherishing loyalty to the party and the leader as the life and soul of chuche-type intellectuals like the revolutionary intellectuals of the homeland, he said.

Photo Exhibit Opens

SK1012085392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0409 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 10 (KCNA)—A photo exhibition on the Korean intellectuals meeting opened at the February 8 house of culture.

On display are 160 pictures showing the great traits of the respected leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in rearing Korean intellectuals with loving care and wisely guiding them to fully discharge their mission in each period and stage of revolution and construction and the looks of the Korean intellectuals who are creditably fulfilling their duty to steadfastly defend and thoroughly implement the party's policies, unfailingly loyal to the party and the leader.

KCNA Criticizes South's Treatment

SK1012111992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 10 (KCNA)—The intellectuals are denied elementary freedom and rights, right to existence, in South Korea under the colonial military fascist rule.

The successive South Korean authorities manoeuvred to reduce the press to a tool of the dictatorial "regime."

Traitor Chon Tu-hwan of the "fifth republic" crossed out the article of the freedom of speech and the press in the "constitution" and codified it in the "national security law" that the pressmen who called for the democratisation of society were liable to penalties on the charge of [word indistinct] and he put the newspapers and broadcasting stations, news agencies and publishing houses in the service of the authorities.

No Tae-u, the dictator of the "sixth republic", hurled thousands of policemen into the "Korean Broadcasting Service" to crack down on its employees who were demanding democratic press and better treatment of the pressmen in protest against the "news blackout" by the authorities, and arrested many of them at a time.

Patriotic-minded teachers have become a main target of repression.

The force now in power dismissed more than 1,500 progressive teachers en bloc when they united in the "national teachers union" (Chongyojo) for true education of the younger generation.

In South Korea diplomas of professorship and doctorate are no more than sheets of waste paper for those who are not backed by money and power.

More than 300,000 university graduates were found jobless by the end of October last year. Each of those "high-class unemployed" has to compete with 500 to 1,000 rivals to be hired at a company.

An intellectual who paid one through the postgraduate course of a university has become an electrician and a man who finished the civil engineering department of Inchon College has to sing for money at four cabarets every evening.

The scientists and technicians hired by the authorities and company owners feel sick at heart, seeing many workers dismissed following their development of new technologies and physicians pay more attention to the pockets of the patients than his disease.

North-South Talks Facing 'Danger of Breakup'

SK1112015192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] The 12th meeting of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC] was held in the South side's area of Panmunjom yesterday.

In our side's statement at the meeting where we stressed that today's meeting is an important meeting which will influence the destiny of the JNCC's work, we clarified our stand on the meeting first.

In this regard our side said: The South side should bear the blame for the fact that all North-South dialogues, including the North-South JNCC, are faced with the danger of breakup. They should also bear the blame for the delay of North-South inspection, because the South side has failed to accept our just demands of rescinding the decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise by the end of November. The South side should make a decision to withdraw its decision to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise by 15 December so that the ninth North-South high-level talks can be held as scheduled, and that progress can be made in the JNCC work. The South side's decision to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise in cooperation with the United States is an intolerable, antinational act.

Our side also clearly revealed that the criminal aim of the South side's decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise while talking about our nonexistent nuclear development lies in concealing its criminal nuclear development, which has been accelerated secretly. The South side is also further accelerating its nuclear development while avoiding inspection.

Our side has revealed, citing concrete examples, that the South side's nuclear weapons development which was decided upon as a policy in the late sixties, entered a preparation stage in the seventies, a full-dress stage in the eighties, and a stage of practical use in the nineties. The South side also independently produces enriched uranium and plutonium for the production of nuclear bombs even after the announcement of the Joint Declaration of Denuclearization.

Proceeding from the firm stand that all the North-South dialogues facing breakup should be saved at all costs and North-South nuclear inspection should be realized with an early implementation of the Joint Declaration of Denuclearization, our side made the following important proposal which should be now implemented:

First, the South side should revoke steps for the resumption of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise which may cause the breakup of North-South dialogue and lead to confrontation between the North and South before 15 December. They should proclaim this at home and abroad.

Second, the South side should unconditionally accept at an early date an overall inspection of U.S. nuclear weapons and bases which are deployed in South Korea which go against the Joint Declaration of Denuclearization.

Third, the South side should clarify the truth of its nuclear weapons development and its stand toward the Joint Declaration of Denuclearization.

The South side persistently evaded an answer to our principled stand and just proposal. It repeated the far-fetched insistence that if a mutual nuclear inspection is conducted according to its inspection regulations, the problem of suspending the resumption of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise can be solved. At the same time, it insisted on inspection of equal number, inspection of ordinary military bases, and special inspection.

In this connection our side urged the South side not to engage in foolish tactics to rationalize and justify the decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise and strongly pressed the South side to discard the illusion of attempting to blame us for the delay in nuclear inspection and to gain something by putting pressure on us in cooperation with foreign forces.

Our side exposed the scheme of the South side to use the discussion of the inspection rules and the issue of mutual inspection for the purpose of justifying the resumption of the Team Spirit joint military exercise, and noted that whereas the discussion of the two sides to work out the inspection rules is to realize the complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, the decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise is an anti-national crime.

Our side questioned whether the South side regards the agreement and promise it made with fellow countrymen as more valuable than the promise it made with foreign forces, and urged the South side to return to the position of national independence and to sincerely keep the promise it made with us, their fellow countrymen.

Our side said that the South side's allegation that everything will be resolved if the mutual nuclear inspection begins before 21 December, the date scheduled for the ninth North-South high-level talks, is aimed at disguising itself as if the South side were interested in the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Our side then added that this is an absurd allegation lacking in feasibility and practicability. Noting that the discussion of the nuclear inspection rules which has continued since last March has not resolved any of their clauses because of the South side's unjust position and delaying tactics, our side branded as absurd the South side's demand for conclusion of discussions on their draft of inspection rules in only 10 days and for subsequent inspections.

Our side noted falsity in the South side's assertion to resolve the issues through dialogue while attempting to conduct a large-scale nuclear war rehearsal, and condemned the South side for abusing the North-South agreement to justify the decision to resume the Team

Spirit joint military exercise, branding it as a criminal act of inspiring distrust and confrontation between the North and the South.

The South side, at a loss to find a word to respond to our logical and majestic assertion, quibbled that North-South dialogue and the resumption of the Team Spirit joint military exercise are compatible and that it is not an act of flunkeyist treachery. Our side strongly criticized the South side's nonsensical remarks and said that such remarks are a blunder revealing the South side's scheme to nullify the North-South agreements, including the joint declaration on denuclearization, and warned that our side must regard this as a matter of grave concern.

Concluding the meeting, our side urged the South side once again to inform our side of its decision to cancel the decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise by 15 December as we demanded to save the North-South dialogue at stake and to remove the black clouds of nuclear war hanging over the nation and to report to the JNCC the truth of the nuclear weapons development which the South side is hiding.

The two sides agreed to hold the next round of the North-South JNCC meeting on 17 December and the members' contact on 14 December.

Government Makes 'Momentous Proposal' Regarding Team Spirit

OW1012163392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1542 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Panmunjom December 10 (KCNA)—The 12th meeting of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee was held in the South side's portion of Panmunjom today.

Proceeding from the firm stand that all the North-South dialogues facing breakup must be saved at all costs and North-South nuclear inspection be realised in a short time with an early implementation of the Joint Declaration on Denuclearisation, our side made the following mementous proposal which must be carried into practice for the present:

Firstly, the South side should revoke the step for the resumption of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises that might cause the collapse of North-South dialogues and lead to confrontation between the two parts of the country before the 15th of December and proclaim this at home and abroad;

Secondly, the South side should accept unconditionally at an early date an overall inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and bases deployed in South Korea in contravention of the joint declaration on denuclearisation;

Thirdly, the South side should give an answer as regards the truth of its development of nuclear weapons and clarify its stand toward the Joint Declaration on Denuclearisation.

Persistently evading an answer to our just proposal, the South side again insisted on "inspection of the same number," "inspection of ordinary military bases" and "special inspection."

Our side urged the South side to renounce the foolish attempt to justify the decision to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises and honestly keep its promises to us, its fellow countrymen, turning to the stand of national independence.

The North side said the South side's assertion that if a "mutual nuclear inspection" began before December 21 when the ninth round of the North-South high-level talks is scheduled to be opened, everything would be "solved" is an unreasonable and infeasible far-fetched argument intended to create the impression that it is interested in the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

The South side's cry for settling the problems through dialogue, while scheming to launch large-scale nuclear war exercises is a hypocrisy, the North side said.

At a loss for words in face of the North side's logical and reasonable statement, the South side claimed that the North-South dialogue and the resumption of the "Team Spirit" joint military manoeuvres "are compatible with each other" and the resumption of the exercises is not a flunkeyist act.

Concluding the talks, the North side urged the South side again to notify the North before December 15 that it revoked the decision to resume the "Team Spirit" and report to the Joint Nuclear Control Committee the truth of the development of nuclear weapons kept in secrecy.

The sides ageed to have the next meeting of the committee on December 17 and a contact of its members on the 14th.

CPRF Denounces 'Development of Nuclear Weapons' by South

SK1012112492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 10 (KCNA)—The Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland (CPRF) released a statement today regarding the truth of the development of nuclear weapons by the South Korean authorities which was exposed by the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon).

The development of nuclear weapons by the South Korean authorities is the most heinous crime which may ruin the country and the nation, the statement notes, and stresses:

They have continued nuclear development, avoiding the attention of the world, even after the agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation and exchange between the North and the South and the joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula were adopted and effectuated. This is a vicious challenge to the desire of the whole nation for peace and peaceful reunification and a wanton violation of the inter-Korean agreement.

With the glaring exposure of the truth of the development of nuclear weapons by the South Korean authorities at the moment, it has become all the clearer what they sought in their malicious outcries over the "nuclear suspicion" against the North.

The South side has deliberately laid obstacles to the discussion of issues at the North-South joint nuclear control committee and the South Korean authorities have incited North-South confrontation and rendered the situation strained behind the scene of dialogue and agreed with the United States to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military manoeuvres, a nuclear war exercise, with a hue and cry over the "nuclear suspicion" against the North. All this is a crafty and malignant plot to cover up their own development of nuclear weapons by diverting elsewhere the public opinion at home and abroad and a brigandish act reminding us of a thief crying "stop thief!"

Now that everything has become clear, the South Korean rulers must immediately stop the clamor of "nuclear suspicion" that cannot go down with anyone.

If the South Korean authorities do not want to face a stern judgement by our nation and mankind, they must now admit and apologize for their criminal development of nuclear weapons, stop it at once and accept without delay our just proposal for an allround nuclear inspection involving the U.S. nuclear bases.

Antinuclear Committee Denounces South's Weapons Development

SK1012084092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1646 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 9 (KCNA)—The Korean Anti-nuke Peace Committee released a statement today denouncing the South Korean authorities' development of nuclear arms in connection with the "open letter and truth behind the development of nuclear weapons in South Korea" issued by the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front. Noting that South Korea where more than 1,000 pieces of U.S. nuclear weapons are deployed has become the biggest nuclear powder keg which ranks first in the world in the transit of the distribution of nuclear weapons, the statement said:

In this touch-and-go nuclear powderkeg the development of nuclear arms has been promoted in top secrecy from several dozen years ago and it has become reality. This is rally an anti-national anti-human crime. With the exposure of the truth behind the nuclear arms development by the South Korean rulers, it has become all the clearer that the nuclear threat comes from the South, not from the North on the Korean eninsula. The South Korean authorities must admit their development of nuclear weapons which would plunge the whole nation and territory into a nuclear holocaust, make an apology to the whole nation and the world for this and stop the development of nuclear weapons at once. The development of nuclear arms by the South Korean authorities cannot be justified with anything and it is a treacherous act of discarding the joint declaration on denuclearisation which they vowed to the whole nation. The South Korean authorities must abide by the agreed points of the joint declaration and accept at an early date our just demand for an all-out nuclear inspection involving the U.S. nuclear bases in South Korea.

The South Korean authorities continue the criminal development of nuclear weapons, defying our warnings, they will be held wholly reponsible for all the grave consequences arising therefrom and face a stern judgement by history.

The Korean anti-nuke peace committee earnestly calls upon the governments, political parties, organisation of all countries and peace-loving people the world over to join the entire Korean people to home and abroad who aspire after the denuclearisation and peace on the Korean peninsula in the maximum efforts to check and frustrate the dangerous development of nuclear arms by the South Korean ruling quarters.

SKNDF Cuban Representative Denounces 'Team Spirit'

SK1012071692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0407 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 10 (KCNA)—The Cuban paper GRANMA November 27 carried answers given by the chief of the mission of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) in Cuba to questions put by its reporter.

He said:

When Korean people's desire for reunification is growing fervent and their struggle for it is gaining momentum, the United States is still pursuing the policy of the era of the cold war to render the situation of the Korean peninsula strained.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities decided to resume the large-scale "Team Spirit" joint military exercises under the pretext of the non-existent "nuclear threat" from the North. This is nothing but a scheme of the anti-reunification elements to create difficulties in the way of North-South dialogue.

He called on the South Korean people to vote for a candidate hoping for independence, democracy and reunification in the forthcoming "presidential elections".

Ethiopian Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Meets Kim Il-song

SK1012112392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 10 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received a delegation of the transitional government of Ethiopia headed by foreign minister Seyoum Mesfin on a visit to Korea.

Present there were Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong- am, an official concerned and Ethiopian Ambassador E. P. to Korea Fantahun Haile Mikael. The head of the delegation conveyed to President Kim Il-song a personal letter and a gift of Meles Zenawi, president and chairman of the council of representatives of the transitional government of Ethiopia.

President Kim Il-song expressed thanks for this and had talks with the guests in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Meets Kim Yong-nam

SK1012074092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0427 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 10 (KCNA)—Talks were held here Wednesday between Korean Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and Ethiopian Foreign Minister Mesfin Seyoum.

Present at the talks on the Korean side were officials concerned and on the opposite side were Ethiopian Ambassador to Korea Haile Mikael Fantahun.

The sides informed each other of the situation of their respective countries and exchanged views on the matter of developing the relations between the two countries and a series of problems of common concern.

Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam hoped that all the work of the Ethiopian transitional government would be well done in the interests of the Ethiopian people.

The Ethiopian foreign minister highly estimated the remarkable development and achievements registered by the Korean people, despite all difficulties under the complicated situation, in the spirit of independence.

Touching upon the Korean people's struggle for national reunification, he fully supported the efforts of the DPRK Government for detente and denuclearisation on the Korean peninsula.

The talks took place in a friendly atmosphere.

Gift for Kim Chong-il

SK1012112292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1033 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 10 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was presented with a gift by Meles Zenawi, president and chairman of the council of representatives of the transitional government of Ethiopia.

The gift was handed to Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam by Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin who is heading the visiting delegation of the Ethiopian transitional government.

Kim Yong-nam Hosts Reception

SK0912065392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 9 (KCNA)—The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea gave a reception for the delegation of the Ethiopian transitional government led by Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin Tuesday evening.

Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam said in his speech that deepening the bonds of friendship between Korea and Ethiopia is the common desire of the two peoples and fully conforms with mutual interests.

He pointed out that the Ethiopian transitional government has exerted much efforts to consolidate peace and stability in the country, promote equality and unity among races and make socio-economic progress.

We, he said, highly appraise the efforts of the Ethiopian transitional government for peace, prosperity and development of Africa and hope that there will be progress in the Ethiopian people's work for the independent development of the country and the building of a new society.

Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin said that the Ethiopian transitional government is attaching great importance to strengthening the relations with the DPRK. The Ethiopian people express heartfelt thanks to the DPRK leadership, government and people for understanding and assisting them, he noted.

He said that their constructive proposal helps toward deepening the conviction that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries can be boosted in the good spirit of South-South cooperation.

He reiterated that Ethiopia would continue to support the noble desire of the entire Korean people for national reunification.

KCNA Reviews 10 Dec Pyongyang Press

SK1012064592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang December 10 (KCNA)—Papers here today devote much space to the report that the Korean intellectuals meeting was opened here Wednesday with a large attendance in the presence of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Seen in the press are a picture of the platform of the meeting, an account of its grand opening and a congratulatory message of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] to the meeting.

The report of Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the C.C., the WPK, and speeches made at the meeting and a congratulatory message of the Korean children's union congratulatory group to the meeting are also carried in the press.

Papers print a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song to Alvaro Cunhal and Carlos Carvalhas on their election as chairman of the national council and secretary general of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Portugal.

Comrade Kim Chong-il's classic work "*On the Fundamental Questions of Revolutionary Party Building*" was reported in foreign countries, says the press.

It is reported in papers that the general secretary of the C.C., the Communist Party of India (Marxist) met a delegation of the WPK led by secretary of its Central Committee Kim Yong-sun and talks were held here between the Korean and Ethiopian foreign ministers.

Papers inform the readers of the 14th congress of the Communist Party of Portugal and moves to rebuild the Communist Party in Russia.

11 Dec Pyongyang Press Review

SK1112060292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0535 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang Decmber 11 (KCNA)—Papers here today frontpage a communique on the 20th plenary meeting of the 6th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea which was presided over by Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Papers carry a photo-accompanied report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received the Ethiopian transitional government delegation and news that a gift from the president of the Ethiopian transitional government was conveyed to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Papers inform the readers that President Kim Il-song's reminiscences "With the Century" was reported in foreign countries.

Given in papers are accounts of seminars on Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "*On the Fundamental Questions of Revolutionary Party Building*" held abroad and letters addressed to him by the general secretary of the Movement for Peace and Socialism of Italy and the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Honduras, upon receiving the work.

Papers report that Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to working people and pupils who had done good things.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article about the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il to preserve revolutionary remains and legacies in their original state.

Carried in papers are accounts of the second-day session of the Korean intellectuals meeting, speeches delivered there and news of the opening of a photo exhibition on the occasion.

"To Establish Chuche Is Fundamental Requirement of Revolutionary Party Building and Its Activities" is the title of an article of NODONG SINMUN.

Papers inform the readers that the international fact-finding group on war-time crimes of old Japan began investigation.

Appearing in papers are a statement published by the Korean anti-nuke peace committee concerning the exposure of the truth of the development of nuclear weapons of the South Korean authorities by the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) and an appeal of the Hanminjon Central Committee to the entire people on the struggle surrounding the "presidential election".

NODONG SINMUN runs a commentary denouncing the flunkeyist and treacherous "election commitments" of Kim Yong-sam, a "presidential candidate" in South Korea.

Papers inform the reading public that the 12th meeting of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee was held at Panmunjom and the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets perpetrated war exercises against the North on the ground and in the sea and air.

Foreign political parties present at the 14th Congress of the Communist Party of Portugal released a joint statement actively supporting the cause of the Workers' Party of Korea, according to the press.

Foreign news columns of the press include reports that the president of the state of Palestine in a statement underscored the importance of unity, the minister of culture of Cuba denounced the U.S. interference at a Havana international symposium and New Zealand formed a committee to watch the plutonium transport ship of Japan.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article on "Human Rights Day".

The paper comments on the recent discovery of new dmcuments regarding the Korean "comfort women for the army" at the national archives of Japan.

NODONG SINMUN: South Impeding Implementation of Nuclear Agreements

SK0612093792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0847 GMT 6 Dec 92

["Treachery Cannot be Justified"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 6 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities recently called "a meeting of ministers concerned with reunification" and set out their stand that they would promote economic cooperation with the North only when there was "a significant progress" in the "nuclear problem" and, otherwise, they would resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

Branding this as a shameless jargon to evade their responsibility for having driven the implementation of the North-South agreement and the Joint Declaration on Denuclearisation into a crisis of failure, following outside forces, and justify their criminal scheme to bring the situation to a higher tension, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says:

It is a demand of the historical North-South agreement and an undeniable point of agreement for the North and the South to conduct multi-faceted cooperation and exchange. But they are bringing forward the fictitious "nuclear problem" as a precondition for the implementation of such crucial matter. This is an open violation of the agreement. Still worse is their declaration that they would stage the nuclear air exercise against the North codenamed "Team Spirit" under this pretext. This is a threat and blackmail to us and a deliberate act to increase the tension for the frustration of the implementation of the North-South agreement and the Joint Declaration on Denuclearisation. It is entirely ascribable to the insidious schemings of the United States and the South Korean authorities that the nuclear problem has not been solved. At the meeting of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee, the South side opposed the adoption of an annexed agreement from the very beginning and dragged on the time, insisting on the discussion only of the rules of inspection, and, when the debate began on the rules thanks to our side's concession and magnanmity, it has tried to exclude the U.S. nuclear weapons and bases in South Korea from the objects of inspection.

Though the South Korean authorities are talking volubly about "denuclearisation" and the like, they are, in actuality, trying to keep the U.S. nuclear weapons and forces in South Korea and prolong their despicable remaining days as colonial watchdogs under their "protection" and, furthermore, vanquish the North with the help of outside forces.

With no sophism can the South Korean authorities evade their responsibility for having led the implementation of the North-South agreement and the Joint Declaration on Denuclearisation to a danger on failure, tailing behind outside forces, or the curses and denunciation by the fellow countrymen.

Commentary Faults ROK for Lack of Nuclear Issue Progress

SK0812084792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Commentary by Chong Pong-kil: "Who Is to Blame for the Failure to Resolve Nuclear Issue?"]

[Text] According to a report, the South Korean puppet administration held a reunification-related ministers' meeting on 2 December. It was decided in the meeting that if significant progress is made in the nuclear issue, the South Korean puppet administration will move North-South economic cooperation from a preparatory stage onto a practice stage and that if progress is not made, it will conduct the '93 Team Spirit joint military exercise according to the agreement of the U.S.-South Korean Annual Security Consultative Meeting held in October. It is said that the South Korean authorities reaffirmed their position that if mutual nuclear inspection is conducted, the Team Spirit joint military exercise can be discontinued.

This is an undisguised military threat that uses our nonexistent nuclear development as an excuse. This act puts the cart before the horse in resolving nuclear issue.

As everyone knows, the issue of North-South economic cooperation was settled in the agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation and exchanges and in an annexed agreement to implement the agreement. If the agreement is implemented, North-South economic cooperation will be realized.

The issue of North-South economic cooperation and the nuclear issue are separate issues. The nuclear issue cannot be a precondition for the North-South economic cooperation. The North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC] is discussing the nuclear issue. On 2 December, our side's chairman of the North-South JNCC proposed that the 12th North-South JNCC meeting be held in the South side's area in Panmunjom on 8 December.

Realizing multilateral cooperation and exchanges between the North and the South is a demand of the North-South agreement. Still, the South Korean authorities are making various remarks about the issue of economic cooperation by using the nuclear issue as an pretext. This is a vicious infringement upon the North-South agreement pledged before all fellow countrymen.

So far, the nuclear issue has not been resolved between the North and the South. This is entirely responsible for the South Korean authorities' impure activities. The world recognizes that we neither possess nuclear weapons nor do we have the intention and ability to develop them.

As for our nuclear policy, it is thoroughly subordinated to a peaceful purpose. The validity and integrity of our nuclear policy have been confirmed through the irregular inspections [pichonggi sachal] of the International Atomic Energy Agency several times.

The nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula resulted from the introduction of U.S. nuclear weapons to South Korea. The nuclear threat has continued because of the nuclear war maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets.

For this reason, we have made every sincere effort to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone. We have proposed at the North-South JNCC that the North-South nuclear simultaneous inspection [tongsi sachal] and overall inspection [chonmyon sachal] be conducted. However, while talking about trial inspection [sibom sachal] and inspection of equal numbers of sites [tongsu sachal], the South Korean authorities are desperately objected to the overall inspection of the nuclear weapons and bases in South Korea.

Approximately 1,000 nuclear weapons of all kinds have been deployed in South Korea and a number of nuclear bases are installed there. Thus, the claim of trial inspection and inspection of equal numbers of sites is precisely aimed at opening a few designated sites in order to leave intact nuclear weapons in other sites as they are.

It was revealed that facilities for the U.S. nuclear submarine base were recently installed in Somodo in Chinhae, South Korea and that the U.S. nuclear submarines constantly visit Chinhae. The South Korean National Democratic Front Central Committee issued an open letter calling for the truth of the South Korean nuclear development. These facts prove that nuclear weapons and bases are deployed in various sites in South Korea and that the South Korean authorities themselves have systematically developed nuclear weapons. This is why the South Korean authorities have desperately objected to our proposal for overall inspection.

Despite such reality, by using our nonexistent nuclear development as a pretext, the South Korean authorities are babbling about the economic cooperation issue and about the resumption of the Team Spirit war exercise. This presumptuous act is like a thief calling another a thief.

If the South Korean authorities really have any intention of resolving the nuclear issue, they should accept our proposal for overall inspection. Any inspection except for overall inspection is useless.

The South Korean authorities should be held responsible for the fact that the nuclear issue has not still been resolved, should affirmatively respond to our proposal and should stop kicking off reckless nuclear threat maneuvers.

'Comfort Women' Investigators Arrive

SK0912005492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1520 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 8 (KCNA)—An international fact-finding group led by Guy Dupre, chairman of the international investigation committee on war-time crimes of old Japan, arrived here today.

It was met at the airport by O Mun-han, chairman of the committee of meesures for compensation to "comfort women for the army" and victims to the Pacific war.

Economic Delegation Returns From Iran 8 Dec

SK0912111592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongjang December 9 (KCNA)—The Korean Government economic delegation led by Kim Tal-hyon, vice-premier and chairman of the State External Economy Commission, returned home Tuesday after participating in the 4th meeting of the Korea-Iran Inter-Governmental Joint Committee for Economic and Scientific-Technological Cooperation held in Iran.

Hanminjon Newspaper Editor Lectures in Havana

SK0912111792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Havana December 7 (KCNA)—Han Su-mi, deputy editor of "KUGUK JONSON" (National Salvation Front), the organ of the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon), gave a lecture on the subject "Change of Consciousness of South Korean People and Prospect of Reunification" at the Asian and Oceanic Institute of Cuba on December 1.

He said in his lecture that the South Korean people's movements for anti-U.S. independence, anti-fascist democracy and peaceful reunification are now purposefully and firmly advancing along its orbit and the awakening and organisation of the people has entered a massive stage. This is a fruit of scores of years of the arduous and bloody struggle of the South Korean people, he noted.

Hanminjon, the vanguard of the South Korean revolutionary movement, is valiantly waging the practical struggle to put aside all sorts of outside interference and obstructions and achieve a historical long-cherished desire for national reunification in the 1990s, he noted, and stressed:

The decision of the United States and South Korean authorities to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises under the pretext of the North's "nuclear problem" is an expression of their intention to go against the North-South dialogue, improvement of relations, the North-South agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization.

He urged them to ponder over all the consequences arising therefrom and cancel at once the decision to resume the joint military exercises.

KCNA Lauds Seminar on Kim Chong-il Work on Literature, Art

SK0512055892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1513 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 4 (KCNA)—A seminar on the chuche-oriented idea of literature and art regarding "On Dance Art", a classical work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, was held here today. Comrade Kim Chong-il published the immortal classical work "On Dance Art" on November 30, 1990. Korean dance art has come to be guided thus by a general theory of dance art which has been systematized and consummated in an integral way and it provided a milestone for human dance art to develop into a true art catering to the requirement and aspirations of mankind.

The work gives a scientific exposition of the basic orientation and principles of creating and building socialist dance, general principles of creating and representing dance and ways to apply them, the position and mission of actors as direct performers of dance, the necessity of dance notation and theoretical and practical matters arising in further projecting and using the new dance notation.

Saying the work is a theoretical and practical weapon clearly indicating the road to be followed by the dance art of our era, the speakers stressed the need for all the officials and artistes to bring about a new turn in the creation of dance pieces by thoroughly applying the idea and theory set out in the work.

KCNA Highlights Science University's Facilities

SK0312234292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1518 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 3 (KCNA)—The Univeristy of Science solved many important scientific and technical matters for different fields of the national economy in recent years. The university is situated in Pyongsong, a city of scientists. It was founded in 1967 with a mission to train excellent graduates from senior middle schools to be competent scientists.

It has 8 faculties including mathematics, physics, electronics and automation, biology, chemistry, 32 courses, 45 chairs, a scientific research institute, an experimental building, a practice factory and about 80 laboratories.

And it has a training course for re-education, educational system of correspondence course and a three-year doctoral institute.

A branch college specialized in chemistry is situated in Hamhung, a city of industry.

The educational system of the main faculties is 5 years and 6 months. It has been equipped with modern experimental apparatuses and facilities for education and scientific research and students of the university study to their heart's content, getting scholarships.

The students consolidate what they learn under the guidence of competent scientists at the research institutes of the Academy of Sciences and participate in scientific research work.

The university produces hundreds of graduates every year and more than 50 percent of them qualify themselves for candidate associate doctors during their study, 58 percent this year.

New school buildings, a domitory, a dining-room, training course of re-education and others are now under construction.

The scale of the university will be doubled.

Over 70 foreign delegations visited the university.

South Korea

Reaction to New DPRK Premier

Seen Vitalizing Economy

SK1112080092 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 11 Dec 92 p 2

[Article by reporter Yu Yong-ku]

[Text] North Korea held a blitz plenary meeting of the Workers Party [WPK] Central Committee on 10 December, one day before the meeting of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] is to open. The plenary meeting decided to appoint Kang Song-san as the new premier of the State Administration Council. The plenary meeting also elected Kim Tal-hyon, chairman of the External Economic Committee, and Kim Yong-sun, party secretary and director of the party's International Department, to be alternate members of the party Central Committee Political Bureau; and Kim Kuk-tae, director of the Cadre Affairs Department of the party Central Committee, and Kim Ki-nam, director of the party Central Committee Propaganda and Agitation Department, to be secretaries of the party Central Committee respectively.

This reshuffle is interpreted as a measure for North Korea to concentrate its efforts on economic reform and accelerate external economic exchange.

Kang Song-san had handled the North Korean economy while serving as premier for three years from January 1984 to December 1986. During this period, North Korea had taken "gradual" economic reform measures. These economic reform measures included enterprises' autonomous accounting system, emphasis on complexes, and movement to increase production of the people's consumer goods through the activation of economic exchanges with the capitalist countries.

We need to pay attention to the fact that Kang Song-san was the very person who assumed the premiership and was in charge of economic affairs at a time when Kim Chong-il began to be interested in economic reform for the first time.

Yi Kun-mo, who succeeded Kang Song-san as premier, made a mistake of "tilting too much to the right" in economic policy and resigned from the party Political Bureau as well as premier in December 1988. Kang Song-san, however, has a different story.

After Kang Song-san resigned the premiership, he assumed the position of party Central Committee's secretary. He assumed concurrently the positions of responsible secretary of the WPK North Hamgyong Provincial Committee and chairman of the Provincial People's Committee in March 1988. Since then, Kang Song-san has been responsible for the local party and administration agencies and controlled the regional economic flow. In particular, it was Kang Song-san who took an active attitude in developing the areas of Tumen River including the Najin and Sonbong regions. Therefore, it is possible to interpret the appointment of Kang Song-san to the premiership as Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il government's intention to vitalize external economic exchange.

The promotion of Kim Tal-hyon (economic sector) and Kim Yong-sun (diplomatic sector)—who are known to be rivals in the DPRK external affairs field—to alternate members of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau this time also clearly suggests that North Korea attaches importance to promoting its relations with foreign countries. Kim Tal-hyon has shown active interest in promoting economic exchanges with capitalist countries and between North and South Korea, while Kim Yong-sun has actively exerted efforts to establish diplomatic relations with the U.S. and Japan.

It is likely that former Premier Yon Hyong-muk will continue to hold the post of Political Bureau member in the party.

What draws our attention is that Kang Song-san, Kim Tal-hyon, and Kim Yong-sun are "close confidants to Kim Chong-il". In other words, the appointment of these figures means that Kim Chong-il has deployed his men in positions in charge of promoting economic reform and opening up.

The characteristics of "close confidants to Kim Chong-il" gaining key posts also find expression in the appointment of Kim Kuk-tae and Kim Ki-nam to be secretaries of the Party Central Committee.

Kim Kuk-tae is a close confidant to Kim Chong-il and worked under him as director of the Cadre Affairs Department of the Party Central Committee. By 1968 he was already promoted to director of the Propaganda and Agitation Department of the Party Central Committee when Kim Chong-il emerged from obscurity. Since then, he has shared the destiny of Kim Chong-il.

Kim Ki-nam worked as responsible editor in chief of "KULLOJA," a political-theoretical magazine of the party, and "NODONG SINMUN," the party's organ, in the 1970's. Since April 1986, Kim Ki-nam has worked as director of the Propaganda and Agitation Department of the Party Central Committee. Kim Chong-il's appointment of these two confidants to be secretaries of the party Central Committee this time is aimed at effectively controlling the sectors of propaganda and agitation affairs and cadre affairs in the party.

Furthermore, some members of the Party Central Committee were newly elected. It is likely that those elected this time are members of the three revolutions team under Kim Chong-il. Their election to be members of the Party Central Committee implies, in a sense, a shift in generation.

The article in the Constitution which stipulated that the President holds the additional position of chairman to the Defense Committee has been revised in the new Constitution so that these two positions will be nominated through "separate elections." Consequently, the possibility of Kim Chong-il being elected as chairman of the Defense Committee in the SPA has further increased. When Kim Chong-il is elected, he will take over "overall military command," including the right to reshuffle personnel as a transitional step before taking over positions of general secretary of the party and president of the state. Thus, his foundation for taking over power will be further strengthened. North Korea's reshuffling of its premier is expected to send an affirmative signal to North-South relations.

Accordingly, although the present atmosphere is at a stalemate due to the Team Spirit exercise and spy incident, North-South relations, including economic cooperation, are likely to improve in March next year when transition of power takes place in the ROK.

YONHAP Profiles Kang

SK1112072492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0705 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 11 (YONHAP)—New North Korean Premier Kang Song-san is expected to speed up the country's economic reforms and the pace of opening to the outside world. Kang, 61, is a native of Pyongyang. He graduated as an honor student from Mangyongdae Revolutionary Institute, which only relatives of President Kim Il-song and children of revolutionaries may attend, and studied political science and economics at Kim Il-song University and economics at Moscow University. He is said to be a cousin of President Kim.

In the 1970's, he became the chief secretary to Pyongyang municipality, a member of the ruling Workers' Party Central Committee and an alternate member of the Politburo. In 1977, he joined the sixth cabinet of Premier Yi Chong-ok as deputy premier in charge of economic affairs. In 1980, at the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party, he was made the 18th Politburo member.

In January 1984, he was named premier and tried to breath new life into the North Korean economy by promulgating the joint venture law to induce western investment. The law proved to be futile, however, and in December 1986 he stepped down, taking responsibility for the failure. From March 1988 until now, he has been the chief secretary to North Hamgyong Province. He is currently ranked the 13th in the party.

According to Kim Chong-min, who defected from North Korea to the South in 1988, Kang and Kim Chong-il, son and heir-apparent of Kim Il-song, are on very close terms. The two became friends while attending Kim Il-song University together.

North Korea analysts here say that the replacement of Yon Hyong-muk is a form of reprimand for his failure to overcome economic difficulties. It has to be seen how Kang will solve the economic plight of his country in the absence of fundamental reforms of society, which is based on the father-son power structure.

Official Expects Economic Opening

SK1112024492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0235 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 11 (YONHAP)—North Korea is expected to pursue a policy of positive opening in economic fields when Kang Song-san takes over as premier, but the inter-Korean high-level talks might be delayed, a South Korean Government official predicted Friday. The official, who asked not to be identified, said that while Kang was chief secretary to North Hamgyong Province he pushed for a special economic zone along the Tumen River, which borders North Korea, China and Russia, and for the Sonbong free trade zone.

"North Korea is likely to pursue a vigorous opening policy as Kang, a confidante to President Kim Il-song, has been named premier," he said. If it does, inter-Korean relations might make progress in economic areas, he said.

The ninth inter-Korean high-level talks, slated for Dec. 21, may be postponed due to the change of premier in the North and discord over the possible resumption of the annual Seoul-Washington military exercise "Team Spirit," he added.

Liaison Official Proposes 14 Dec Meeting With North

SK1112015792 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 11 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] In a telephone message sent to the North side on 10 December, Kim Yong-hwan, responsible liaison official of the South side's delegation to the North-South high-level talks, proposed that the two sides hold a liaison officials' contact at Tongilgak in the North side's area of Panmunjom at 1000 (0100 GMT) on the morning of 14 December to discuss the schedules and other working-level issues for the ninth round of North-South high-level talks to be held in Seoul from 21 to 24 December.

North Rejects Meeting

SK1112115092 Seoul YONHAP in English 1137 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 11 (YONHAP)—North Korea has in effect rejected the South's offer to hold a liaison officials meeting on next Monday to discuss procedural matters related to the Ninth South-North Prime Ministers Meeting set to open in Seoul on Dec. 21.

In a telephone message Friday to Kim yong-hwan, the South's senior liaison official, North Korea asserted that the South should clearly withdraw a plan to resume the Team Spirit exercise so that liaison officials contact could be held early to prepare for the ninth prime ministers meeting. The message was signed by Kim's North Korean counterpart, Choe Bong-chun.

The South proposed in a telephone message on last Dec. 10 that senior liaison officials meet at Panmunjom on Dec. 14 to discuss the schedule and other procedural items for the ninth meeting.

"It appears almost certain that the ninth high-level will not be held as North Korea demands the withdrawal of our decision to resume the Team Spirit exercise next year depending on situation as a prerequisite to holding the ninth meeting," a government official said.

Police Heighten Security Upon Rumors of DPRK Sabotage

SK1112070692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0653 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 11 (YONHAP)—The South Korean police, acting on information that North Korean agents may try to sneak into Seoul to attack presidential candidates or sabotage jetliners flying between China and Seoul, have tightened security at airports and harbors across the country.

The Seoul Police Administration issued a top-class emergency precaution directive at 9 AM Friday and instructed all policemen to be on the alert until Dec. 19, a day after the presidential election, a police officer said.

The police obtained, through the Chinese Embassy in Seoul, information that North Korean agents might try to plant a bomb aboard a Korean plane flying between Seoul and Tianjin or Shanghai to create social disorder, he said.

The police have heightened surveillance, inspection and freight searches at airports and ports, and posted a watch for international terrorists. Special squads of police martial arts experts will be sent to campaign rallies to protect the presidential candidates against attempts on their lives as the election nears, he said. The police will seal off tall buildings around rally sites to prevent snipers and examine gifts and wreathes with the approval of the parties.

Officials Expect UN To Address DPRK Human Rights Next Year

SK1012105992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0714 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (OANA-YONHAP)—The U.N. Commission on Human Rights is expected to address more deeply than before North Korea's human rights conditions at next year's conference, officials here predicted Thursday [10 Dec].

The European Community and Western nations took up the issue at the recent meeting of the U.N. third committee on Social Affairs and Human Rights, an indication that it will be brought up again at the commission conference, they said.

It was the first time that EC mentioned North Korea's human rights situation. EC representative Martin Raven expressed concern over Pyongyang's suppression of personal freedom and urged North Korea to abide by the universal declaration of human rights, adopted at the United Nations in 1948.

Contents of the U.N. committee meeting will be reported to the human rights commission conference that will meet in Vienna next June. South Korea plans to send either the foreign or justice minister and Seoul, too, will express concern over Pyongyang's treatment of human rights, according to the officials.

Daily Says No Presidential Candidate Enjoys Solid Lead

SK1012115792 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 10 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Although the election is only a week away, none of the three major candidates appear to enjoy a solid lead, making predictions of who will win the presidential race more difficult than before.

The three competing candidates are planning to concentrate their campaigns in metropolitan Seoul and its surrounding areas this week to sway youthful, undecided voters to their sides, regarding these stumping rallies as decisive in the presidential race.

Seoul and its adjacent area of Kyonggi makes up about 40 percent of the total eligible voters tallied at about 29 million.

The on-going controversy about the United People's Party [UPP] being funded by the Hyundai business group is said to have curbed the rise in the popularity of Chong Chu-yong—UPP candidate and founder of the Hyundai group—much to the delight of Kim Yong-sam and the Democratic Liberal Party.

Some analysts predict that the gap of votes between the winner and the second place candidate would be only within 880,000 if 80 percent of 29 million eligible voters cast their ballots.

And the candidate who receives anywhere between 8.3 million to 9.4 million votes is expected to win the Dec. 18 presidential election.

The Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) believes that the government's investigation of Hyundai is influencing voters to object to what is called money politics.

The party claims its candidate leads by 7 to 10 percent against Kim Tae-chung, presidential candidate of the Democratic Party, and more than 15 percent against the UPP candidate.

The DLP maintains that Kim Yong-sam is especially strong in the Pusan and Kyongsang areas, regarded as Kim's traditional stronghold, and staying even in popularity in the Chungchong and Kangwon provinces.

The DLP candidate expects to win enough votes to become the next president should he fare well in the regions considered generally conservative.

The Democratic Party [DP] thinks that the popularity of both DLP and UPP candidates has dropped sharply due to their bickering over money politics, with its candidate Kim Tae-chung gaining in their wake.

The DP concedes that the popularity of Kim Yong-sam appears to be 2 to 3 percentage points higher than that of Kim Tae-chung but maintains that the majority party candidate's perceived popularity is always a little higher than reality.

The second largest party claims to be far ahead in the Seoul and Honam (Cholla) areas, and will win at least 15 percent of the vote in the Pusan and Yongnam (Kyongsang) areas thanks to mitigated regionalism.

Kim Tae-chung received only about 2 percent of eligible votes of Kyongsangpuk-to and less than 10 percent in Pusan and Kyongsangnam-to in the 1987 presidential election.

The UPP recognizes its wavering popularity due to what it calls oppression by the government and the DLP. But the party expects to cash in on voter sympathy.

Chong's party says it maintains an absolute lead in the Kangwon and Chungchong areas and is even in popularity in Taegu and Kyongsangpuk-to province.

The UPP is planning to stage a massive rally in Yoido on Saturday in a move to pull off an upset victory in the presidential election. At present, no other party has such a massive rally in mind.

Survey Results Indicate 88.7 Percent Election Turnout

SK1012110192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0636 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (YONHAP)—A survey said Thursday that 88.7 percent of South Korea's voters will go to the polls in next week's presidential election. The Hyundae Research Institute, at the request of the central election management committee, questioned 1,200 voters by phone Tuesday and Wednesday. It found that 38 percent were still undecided.

Of the 12.9 percent who have witnessed illegal campaigning, 55.5 percent were offered money, food or a tour by a political party. But 96.8 percent said that they were not influenced by gifts or would vote against anyone trying to buy their allegiance.

It said 58.7 percent responded that they will not support a candidate giving bribes and 17.9 percent will take part in fair election activities. Another 14.4 percent said they will notify the authorities of illegal campaigning.

UPP Refuses To Join DP Call for Televised Debates

SK1012063492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0303 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (YONHAP)—The United People's Party [UPP] has refused to join the Democratic Party [DP] in calling on the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] to campaign fairly and take part in a televised debate.

Kim Hyo-yong, head of the UPP election campaign management headquarters, turned down a DP proposal that their presidential candidates give a joint news conference to declare a combined effort to counter "unfair government investigations" into their parties. Han Kwang-ok, Kim's DP counterpart, had stressed, in a telephone contact, that a joint press conference was needed also to challenge DLP presidential candidate Kim Yong-sam to a televised debate.

Kim reacted negatively to the proposal, saying UPP candidate Chong Chu-yong was too busy campaigning. Chong himself flatly rejected the idea, saying he had no intention of seeking the support of other political parties. The two, however, agreed to continue to discuss the idea of sharing facilities for their mass rallies in Yoido on Saturday.

Daily Notes Effect of UPP-Hyundai Investigation on Economy

SK1012052892 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 10 Dec 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Unwelcome Blow to Economy"]

[Text] The police investigation into the alleged diversion of funds of the Hyundai Business Group subsidiaries to campaign spending for the United People's Party [UPP] is taking an undesirable turn toward adversely affecting the nation's economy and provoking sensation removed from the main concern of the election.

The government has admitted some of its excesses in pursuit of the possible electoral offenses of Hyundai executives and taken corrective steps. Meanwhile, the agitated UPP and Hyundai affiliates are going all out to put up a united front to resist and denigrate the probe as an act of discrimination and political repression.

These untoward developments present two major problems in this crucial run-up to the election. All sensible minds in our midst not obsessed with the frenzied partisan contest for the highest office are worried about the negative influence upon the business and finance of the country.

Already, local industrial plants and trading houses are suffering a shortage of workers because some of them have been drawn to electioneering "jobs." There has been general degeneration of labor efficiency on account of the fever of the political season. The allegations of massive misuse of money from the conglomerate associated with the UPP presidential nominee, Chong Chu-yong, set off an extensive inquiry into the scandal.

This clampdown accompanied by scrutiny by tax officials has caused near paralysis of the business establishment and seriously undermined its export potential for December. The current investigations, which seem to be well warranted by visible proof of mismanagement and irregularity, should be carried out in such a way as would minimize the effect upon the normal activity of the group. Other business firms must also guard against any unfavorable impact.

The Hyundai Group, for its part, is advised to cut its ties with the UPP and start to hold its own as an economic entity. Its threat to close down altogether if the crackdowns continue is totally out of place—an affront to and betrayal of its many investors and customers. The whole edifice of Hyundai has been reeling with its managers and lesser employees allegedly mustered to join the campaign for Chong. Such unreasonable and illegal collaboration must come to an end.

The law-enforcement authority cannot shrink back before the political offensive of the UPP, hand in hand with Hyundai. Of course, it ought to keep watch over and administer justice to all the other parties and candidates with fairness and equal rigidity. The voting public should remain alive to the issues and policy alternatives proper to the election, diluted by the unfortunate Hyundai affair.

Hyundai Workers Allegedly Pressured To Donate Bonus to UPP

SK1012110892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0844 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (YONHAP)—There is some confusion over whether employees of the Hyundai Business

Group have been pressured into donating their year-end bonuses to the United People's Party (UPP).

A group source, who refused to be identified, said Thursday that executives and staff at some affiliates had handed over their year-end bonuses to the UPP as "voluntary donations" to support the party.

But rank and file workers told YONHAP that they were put under heavy pressure to contribute to the party. Hyundai Group founder Chong Chu-yong is the UPP candidate for president.

"As the workers are all members of the party, they decided to make a voluntary donation of their bonuses," the source said.

But as discontent among employees is spreading through the group, company presidents gathered Thursday morning and agreed not to urge people who haven't yet been paid their bonuses to give them to the party.

Employees of the major affiliates have already received their bonuses and the rest are due by Dec. 15, three days before the election.

If the bonuses of all Hyundai employees and executives are donated to the party, the UPP will have an additional 100 billion won (127 million U.S. dollars) for its campaign.

Yi Chong-chan Delivers 9 Dec Campaign Speech

SK1012110692 Seoul SBS Television Network in Korean 1250 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Campaign speech by Yi Chong-chan, presidential candidate of the New Korea Party, NKP, on 8 December; place not given—recorded]

[Summary] This is Yi Chong-chan. I am glad to see you, fellow countrymen, again. It seems that all the mass media, including broadcast stations and newspapers, are being swayed by invisible hands these days. All news media have seemed not only to focus their attention only on the candidates of the three political parties, but also to intentionally try to restrict our people's political rights and their rights to know by attempting to make the current presidential election an arena for the race of only these three candidates.

As the presidential election campaign is in full swing, the atmosphere of buying votes with money and exploiting government power has become more unscrupulous these days. Therefore, I cannot but reveal the fact that the neutrality of President No Tae-u and the Hyon Sung-chong cabinet in the presidential election has been destroyed completely and that, accordingly, a fair presidential election cannot be expected.

President No withdrew from the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] to form a neutral, election management cabinet. Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong, as well, promised, when he took office, that he would immediately step down if his cabinet's neutrality is defamed. However, the situation developing at present gives a great disappointment to the people and makes them keenly realize that their final expectation toward President No was a futile dream.

"President No Tae-u, although he declared to remain neutral, has been siding with the DLP whenever an opportunity presented itself. He went so far as to try to prevent Kim Pok-tong from withdrawing from the DLP by mobilizing police and agents from the National Security Planning Agency. Very recently, he attempted to prevent lawmaker No Chae-pong from withdrawing from the DLP. These show that President No's declaration that he will remain neutral is false."

The current political situation is in a mess because of the controversies over the money-backed election campaign by the United People's Party [UPP]. I resolutely oppose the Hyundai Group's funds—which should be used in production—being illegally introduced into the UPP in a bid to buy power with money. However, unfairly enforcing laws against the Hyundai Group by mobilizing government power and conducting tax investigation of the group simply because the situation in the election campaign is turning out to be unfavorable to the DLP is obviously an act of political suppression. The government has been reluctant in investigating the illegal campaign activity by candidate Kim Yong-sam's private organizations.

"It seems to me that President No Tae-u does not realize the importance of the upcoming presidential election." The upcoming presidential election is not merely to elect a political leader, but is an opportunity which will sum up the history of our nation for the past century and determine how to cope with changes in the future. Therefore, the upcoming presidential election should be conducted in a clean and fair manner. So, I once again propose to presidential candidates and to Kim Yong-sam of the DLP, in particular, to hold television debates. Preventing a money-backed election and a government power-backed election is possible only through candidates' television debates.

The world has entered a period of reorganizing international order. To cope with this period many countries are making a generational shift. The people of Britain and the United States have already chosen young leaders, and a transfer of power is being carried out in China. Japan, as well, is now very busy reorganizing its political circles. Fortunately, our country, too, is greeting the decisive moment to choose a new young leader for the 21st century.

We are faced with the task of liquuidating the legacies of the old politics and achieving a new politics. Frankly speaking, the politics in this country is "not democratic politics, but corrupt and old politics which seeks only power." Plutocracy, illegality, machination, and illicit political connections are rampant in our politics. Such politics should be rejected and liquidated.

We need clean politics. Expenses in politics should be minimized. The funds which are being spent in the current presidential election are beyond our imagination. The Central Election Management Committee's authority should be further strengthened. All elections should be managed directly by the central election management committee. We should also remove provisionalism among our people. To this end, I will establish a fair personnel system. I will set up an ad hoc personnel management committee under the president. I will also revise the current national assembly election system.

I will adopt the real name financial system and enact a new land law. I will do my best to reform various sectors of our economy. I will revitalize our market ecoomic system. I will invigorate small and medium-size enterprises' economic acitivities.

I will establish a moral government, a just market economy, and a vigorous society. I sincerely ask you, voters, to support me. I will do without fail what I have promised.

UPP Candidate Chong Chu-yong Delivers TV Speech

SK1012090792

[Editorial Report] Seoul SBS Television Network in Korean at 1150 GMT on 9 December carries a 20-minute recorded speech by presidential candidate Chong Chu-yong of the United People's Party [UPP].

Chong Chu-yong first describes how he helped realize the construction of the Seoul-Pusan expressway at a reasonable cost, which was thought impossible in those days, noting stubborn opposition to this project by Kim Yong-sam, then a lawmaker at the National Assembly. Chong Chu-yong also notes Kim Yong-sam's opposition to the 1988 Seoul Olympics which he also helped realize. Chong Chu-yong notes the crucial role the Seoul-Pusan expressway played in the development of the national economy. He also notes how the Seoul Olympics contributed to the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Chong Chu-yong says: "President No Tae-u is the person who knows Mr. Kim Yong-sam best." Then he recalls that President No welcomed Kim Yong-sam when the latter joined the ruling party through the merger of the three parties, how President No tried to train Kim Yong-sam to make him acquire qualifications for becoming president, having him participate in the party-government consultative meetings. Chong Chu-yong then notes: "Because Mr. Kim Yong-sam participated in the party-government consultative meetings for three years, Mr. Kim Yong-sam should be responsible for at least half of the mistakes made by the Sixth Republic. Nevertheless, Mr. Kim Yong-sam on his stumping tour blames President No Tae-u for all the mistakes committed."

Chong Chu-yong notes that despite President No's efforts to train Kim Yong-sam, Kim Yong-sam proved himself incapable. Chong Chu-yong says: "For all these efforts, President No Tae-u found Kim Yong-sam unqualified for the presidency. Moreover, Mr. Kim Yong-sam was an arrogant man. As if he had already become president, Mr. Kim Yong-sam announced a plan to replace the prime minister when the prime minister was attending the North-South high-level talks in Pyongyang. This news was carried in the newspaper. President No could no longer tolerate this and had to desert the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and make the 28 September declaration."

Chong Chu-yong adds: "Former DLP Chairman Pak Tae-chun was another person who knows Mr. Kim Yongsam well. Chairman Pak Tae-chun left the DLP because he found Mr. Kim Yong-sam unqualified as president despite his long association with Mr. Kim Yong-sam, discussing politics and everything with him after the three party merger."

Chong Chu-yong then says: "Mr. Pak Tae-chun is now unable to return home from abroad because of Mr. Kim Yong-sam's manipulations. Before he left on an overseas trip, Mr. Pak Tae-chun and I had a long discussion and he promised to join the UPP, and we agreed to make efforts to make our national economy develop as much as the Japanese economy."

Chong Chu-yong then lays out his plans to solve the housing problem, traffic problem, and educational problem.

Chong Chu-yong that "Mr. Son so and so, assistant director of the Agency for National Security Planning in charge of internal affairs," is involved in all areas of politics, "perhaps because Mr. Kim Yong-sam promised him to give him a position as a cabinet minister."

Chong Chu-yong criticizes Kim Yong-sam for his attempt to become president with the backing of the government power. He promises to give women equal opportunity for job and public office and promises good welfare facilities for the old and the handicapped.

Chong Chu-yong calls on Kim Yong-sam to participate in a TV debate among three major presidential candidates. He criticizes Kim Yong-sam for mobilizing the police force to conduct surveillance of UPP members engaged in the election campaign, having two plainclothes men tail each of them, infringing upon their civil rights and private life.

He notes uncomfortable relations between himself and the CHOSON ILBO "which does not report the truth to the people in collusion with Mr. Kim Yong-sam and criticizes the UPP by distorting facts."

Concluding his speech, he says: "This election will be an important one in that it will prove whether the people will vote for Mr. Kim Yong-sam who is campaigning with the backing of the government power or they will vote to bring the victory of the people's rights. I am convinced that the president will be elected by the exercise of the people's right, for our people are clever."

Foreign Ministry Names Envoys to Uruguay, Ecuador

SK1012033392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0021 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (OANA-YONHAP)—The government appointed Pak Tae-chin the new ambassador to Uruguay and O Chae-ki as new chief of mission to Ecuador Thursday.

Pak, 57, graduated from the Korea Military Academy and served as defense attache to Malaysia and Japan. He was appointed ambassador to Jordan in 1988 and returned to Seoul last year as research commissioner at the Foreign Ministry's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security.

O, 60, is a graduate of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies and joined the Foreign Ministry in 1961. His overseas posts include counsellor to Washington, D.C., minister to Indonesia and Mexico and consul-general to Sao Paulo. He was ambassador to Nigeria from 1987 to 1991.

Economics Institute Predicts Cut in 1993 Trade Deficit

SK0912121592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0926 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 9 (YONHAP)—The trade deficit will be halved next year whoever wins the December presidential election, dropping to 1.8 billion U.S. dollars, the Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade (KIET) predicted Wednesday.

KIET forecast exports growth would stop at 9.2 percent from this year to 85 billion dollars because newly developing nations would accelerate market encroachment and industrialized countries would strengthen import restrictions. Imports would reach 86.8 billion dollars, up 6.6 percent, the report said.

If the government continued to pursue economic stabilization, domestic demand would remain weak, but imports would expand amid mounting need for foreign machinery and outside pressure to open Korean market, the report said.

Exports to the United States will rise 3.4 percent, to Japan 7.8 percent, to the European Community 6.3 percent, to developing countries 22 percent and to "northern countries" 30.8 percent.

Exports of electric and electronics will reach 23.1 billion dollars, up 9.8 percent, textiles 17 billion dollars, up 5.8 percent, steels 5.84 billion dollars, up 9.7 percent, general machinery 3.89 billion dollars, up 18 percent, automobiles 3.53 billion dollars, up 24.7 percent, petrochemicals 3 billion dollars, up 20 percent, fine chemicals 627 million dollars, up 19 percent, nonferrous metals 760 million dollars, up 11.8 percent.

But exports of ships will fall to 3.8 billion dollars, off 10 percent and shoes to 2.5 billion dollars, sinking 23.5 percent.

Government Eyes Legislation To Spur High-Tech Businesses

SK1012121492 Seoul YONHAP in English 1120 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (YONHAP)—The government plans to legislate a law on the expedition of commercialization of high-tech skills with a view to further developing high-tech industries.

Han Tok-su, director-general of the trade and Industry Ministry's industrial policy bureau, said Thursday the law is being eyed because of the need to expand the weight of those high-tech industries whose technology spillover effect is large and which are of energy-conservation type.

In a speech at an industrial strategy course at the engineering college of Seoul national university, Han said the importance of high-tech expertise is growing greater as the worldwide market volume of high-tech products is expected to expand three to four times faster than that of ordinary items.

"Nonetheless, the share of high-tech goods in Korea's total exports is no more than 12 percent, less than half of the average 31 percent in advanced countries," he said.

To facilitate the development of high-tech industries, the specialized production system should be established on an industry basis and cooperative relations between large and small industries should be deepended, Han said.

Government Approves Goods Exchange With DPRK

SK1012062892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0538 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (YONHAP)—The government gave Hyowon Moolsan Co. permission to exchange 20,000 boxes of instant noodles [ramyon] with North Korea for frozen pollack last month, the National Unification Board (NUB) said Thursday.

Hyowon will ship the ramyon, valued at 159,000 U.S. dollars, to North Korea as soon as it receives the pollack, which is expected before the end of the year, an NUB spokesman said. The NUB approved 12 shipments to North Korea in November, including 350,000 dollars of garlic, 35,000 dollars of onions, 58,000 dollars of toilet soap and 58,000 dollars of garments. This compares with three in October, he said.

Exchange permits totaled 14.06 million dollars in November—13.27 million dollars of inflow and 785,000 dollars of shipments. This was up from 11.86 million dollars a month earlier. Last month's exchanges were only 47 percent of those a year earlier, a sign that South Korean companies took a negative stance in making deals with North Korea following the recent bumpy inter- Korean relations due to the nuclear issue.

In January-November this year, exchanges amounted to 194.92 million dollars, including 11.24 million dollars of shipments to North Korea, up 1.4 percent from 192.17 million dollars in the same period last year.

PRC Ships Visit Ports Following Beginning of Ties

SK1012061292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0303 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (YONHAP)—Five ships owned by the China Ocean Shipping Co. (COSCO) have called at South Korea in the four weeks since Seoul and Beijing opened their ports in maritime talks Nov. 12-13, industry sources said Thursday. The sources said that one or two COSCO-owned freighters a month put into Korean ports in September and October. Seoul and Beijing normalized ties in Aug. 24.

The vessels, between 5,000 tons and 70,000 tons, were empty at first and called mostly to take on fuel, but since the agreement have had cargo on board. Their home ports are Shanghai, Dalian and Qingdao. Korea Universal Shipping Co. works as the local agent for COSCO.

Legal Dispute Between ROK, French Banks Enters 'New Phase'

SK0912075392 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 9 Dec 92 p 8

[By staff reporter Yi Yang-hyon]

[Text] The legal dispute between group of local commercial banks and two expatriate French banks doing business here, involving a $26 million letter of credit (L/C) defaulted by a Korean garment importer early this year, appears to have entered a new phase.

Societe General and Banque Nationale de Paris recently filed complaints with the Seoul District Prosecutor's Office, alleging that at least two of the six Korean commercial banks involved in the L/C default had prior knowledge of a scheme by Sinhan International to swindle $26 million before going bankrupt in January this year.

The French banks named the Hanil Bank and the Commercial Bank of Korea in the recent complaint.

The French banks also argued that at least 12 Korean bank officials, including Yi In-ho, a senior manager of the Hanil Bank, committed illegal activities in their dealings with Sinhan International.

The foreign banks, however, refused to identify all of the accused officials on the grounds that their investigations are still ongoing.

But four others were also identified as officials of the Bank of Seoul—Yo Hyon-tong, director; Kim U-so, head of a branch office; Kim Yong-pil, head of another branch; and Choe Sang-tae, head of an office in charge of foreign exchange affairs.

It is rare for a bank to file criminal charges against another party in a financial dispute, says a French bank official who wanted to remain anonymous.

Under internationally accepted uniform customs and practice (UCP) of L/C, banks who issue such letters of credit will ultimately be held responsible for any financial defaults resulting from the negotiations of shipping documents which are backed up by valid L/Cs, even if the shipping documents turn out to be forged.

The UCP, however, provides exception clauses under which the issuing banks may refuse to honor the shipping documents if the foreign banks knew in advance the documents were fake or if they were involved in the fraud.

The Korean banks argue in their law suit that Bosco Tam, manager of the Societe Generale's Hong Kong office, had to mail the shipping documents to Korean banks through a DHL, super express mail service. But it hand carried them to Seoul and bribed Kim Tong-kyu at Ilyang Express and had Kim present the documents to the banks as if they were mailed, they alleged.

On the other hand, the Korean banks believe the French banks filed the complaints with the prosecutors in an attempt to favorably influence the legal proceedings currently pending in the Seoul District Civil Court. The French banks filed civil suit last January when the Korean banks refused to honor $26 million of letters of credit which the local banks had issued to Sinhan International's offshoot in New York.

The dispute between the Korean banks and the French banks dates back to early this year when Sinhan International went bankrupt after defaulting on $26 million due from negotiations of forged shipping documents.

The focal point of contention has been whether the Korean banks or the foreign banks had prior knowledge of the scheme by Sinhan International to cheat them out of the $26 million.

The French banks have insisted that they knew nothing beforehand and simply fell prey to the scam.

After almost 10 months of assuming a defensive posture, the six Korean banks have taken an aggressive stance against the foreign banks armed with what they described as "decisive evidence."

Although they are reluctant to go into details, one banking source said the evidence concerns the questionable behavior of officials at the French banks before and after the Sinhan International scandal.

"They (foreign banks) should have known that Sinhan was in trouble beforehand and yet they went ahead and paid out $26 million in an under-the-table deal with Sinhan officials in Hong Kong," said the source who claimed to have the decisive evidence.

This financial scandal involves six Korean banks, two branch offices of the French banks and Sinhan International in Seoul; branch offices of the six Korean banks, two French bank offices and Sinhan's office in Hong Kong; and two French bank offices and Sinhan's office in New York.

Under Sinhan International's scheme, they pretended to import merchandise worth $26 million from its New York office via its Hong Kong branch.

Sinhan had its New York office create forged shipping documents which were used to collect the $26 million.

The French banks claimed that the Korean banks were aware of Sinhan's scheme and took no action to prevent the improper payment.

The Korean banks argue that the French bank offices did not negotiate the shipping documents with the Sinhan office in Hong Kong and thus they are not obliged to honor the letters of credit issued on their behalf by the Seoul branches of the French banks.

The Korean courts ordered that documents related to the relevant transactions made in Hong Kong be presented for review.

But the French banks have said they are unable to force their branch offices in Hong Kong, which are separate entities, to submit the documents.

"It's a legal and technical issue," says a French bank official. "But we will try to persuade our Hong Kong offices to present the documents at the earliest possible date."

The Korean banks could demand the documents in a suit in Hong Kong, he says. "We have never dreamed of losing this case because we have not committed any wrongdoings," he added.

Ministry Declares U.S. Phone Company Services 'Unlawful'

SK0912072992 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 9 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] The Communications Ministry has declared unlawful a U.S. company's bid to resell telecommunications services to domestic customers of international phone services.

Viatel, a U.S. value-added telecommunications software company, and its local branch operation, are not authorized to provide international call services, the ministry said yesterday.

A senior ministry official said the allocation of personal identification numbers through Viatel's World Phone Cards to local subscribers is in violation of a law governing telecommunications businesses.

Not only is Transpacific Services Limited [TSL], Viatel's local operation, not registered to engage in telecommunications businesses, its lack of related facilities will not quality it as a licensed establishment.

"There are a number of areas in which TSL is believed to be violating pertinent regulations, one of which is the fact that Viatel is billing its customers for making toll-free calls," the official said.

Korea Telecom, which has been on full alert over the launching of Viatel services here at rates that are some 20-40 percent lower than its own, said it would take legal action against TSL and Viatel should they insist on pursuing their business.

The ministry also said it would issue a notice to TSL today, advising it to halt all related activities until such a time when it can make its business comply with domestic regulations.

"Even though the local telecommunications market is to be liberalized in accordance with the negotiations of the Uruguay Rounds, the regulations related to this case will remain unaffected," the official said.

Under the Telecommunications Business Law, those violating the stipulations are subject to a maximum fine of 20 million won.

The controversy over the introduction of Viatel services began late last week when Telecom and Dacom Corporation, the only two local companies authorized to serve international calls, launched a complaint with the ministry.

Telecom officials argued that it is against the law to resell its Clover toll-free services obtained through an agreement with MCLL, also a U.S. concern.

However, TSL and Viatel officials said they have studied related telecommunication laws months in advance and that its activities were already fully in compliance.

Viatel President Martin Varsavsky said in a press conference called yesterday morning at the Press Center in downtown Seoul that his company is operating in over 30 countries around the world and that it has not encountered any problems with telecommunication laws.

All billings for calls made through the prescribed program are made by Viatel in the U.S. through internationally-accepted credit cards with no financial transactions taking place here.

Communications experts noted that the method utilized by Viatel is indeed unique and more detailed study on the

Telecommunication Business Law will have to be conducted to determine if it is in fact committing violations.

TSL, for its part, said its limited activities here do not call for the need to obtain any further authorization than its license as a service and marketing company.

Lotte Criticizes U.S. Envoy on Coca Cola Trademark Issue

SK0912024992 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 7 Dec 92 p 7

[From the "Economic Avenue" column: "Stir Created by Gregg's Letter"]

[Text] A stir has been created since it was revealed that Gregg, the U.S. ambassador to the ROK, intervened in a dispute between Coca Cola and Lotte Chilsong over the trademark rights of a lemon and lime-flavored soft drink by sending a letter to the authorities of the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Office of Patent Administration seeking a judgment favorable to Coca Cola.

While recognizing that the decision at the first trial—rejection of Coca Cola's application for an injunction on using an imitation trade mark—seemed to be just and fair, Ambassador Gregg said that Lotte Chilsong had obvious intent to copy Coca Cola's "Sprite" for its "Sprinter" product and requested the authorities' firm endorsement for his statement.

In connection with this, Lotte Chilsong said that "although we knew that Ambassador Gregg sent such a letter on 28 October, we did not take any active countermeasures in a bid to avoid people's misconception that a large business group is instigating anti-U.S. sentiment". Lotte Chilsong then criticized him, stating that "the attempt of a country's ambassador to give influence to the judicial proceedings by interfering in disputes of civilian business enterprises is an act going beyond his characteristic rights."

Government To Tighten Money Supply Management in 1993

SK0412131892 Seoul YONHAP in English 1230 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 4 (YONHAP)—The government, believing that money supply would sharply increase in the foreign sector in the days ahead, has decided to drastically tighten money supply management in the sector next year.

Finance Ministry officials said Friday that some 6,000 to 8,000 billion won worth of foreign exchanges would flow into the country next year, an amount more than three times as much as this year's influx estimated at about 2,000 billion won.

The officials said the expected jump in the foreign exchange influx would be due to expanded opening of the capital market, liberalization of foreign exchange transactions and improved international payments position next year.

Besides, they said, the foreign exchanges that would be invested in the stock market next year would be much more than this year's estimated at 1,200 to 1,600 billion won on a pure influx basis.

The deficit in the current account would be reduced from the 5 billion dollars level this year to some 2.5 billion dollars next year, and foreign exchange banks' FX reserves would swell as advance exports receipt would be expanded spurred by greater liberalization of foreign exchange transactions.

Under the circumstances, the government is studying a plan to use the foreign exchanges flowing in in the foreign sector in overseas investment or in the introduction of high-tech facilities by domestic industries, the officials said.

Trade Surplus With 'Northern Nations' Growing

SK0812031492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0212 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 8 (YONHAP)—Korea's trade surplus with "northern nations" is growing after a deficit last year, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Tuesday.

January-September exports to northern countries were 3.9 billion U.S. dollars, up 54 percent from a year earlier, and imports hit 3.4 billion dollars, up 11 percent, a ministry spokesman said. The 433-million-dollar surplus compares with a deficit of 592 million dollars in the same period last year.

Korea sold China goods worth 3,009 million dollars, up 80.9 percent, and bought goods worth 2,827 million dollars, up 13.1 percent, for a surplus of 182 million dollars. In the same period last year, Korea posted an 836 million-dollar deficit.

With Vietnam, exports were 291 million dollars, up 109.5 percent, and imports 43 million dollars, up 39.2 percent, for a 248 million-dollar surplus. Last year the surplus with Vietnam was 108 million dollars.

In trade with the Commonwealth of the Independent States, Korea posted an 84 million-dollar deficit, down from 143 million dollars last year.

In trade with Eastern European countries, Korea had a surplus of 81 million dollars, off from 274 million dollars in black ink last year.

Burma

UNHRC Official Meets SLORC Information Group

BK0912145192 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Visiting United Nations Human Rights Commission [UNHRC] representative Professor Yozo Yokota called on Chief Justice U Aung Toe at the Reception Hall of the Chief Justice's Office at 1400 today. Present at the meeting were Chief Court Judge U Myo Tun Lin, Director General of Chief Court U Soe Nyunt, and Miss (Lari Fredtich) and Miss (Zenita Lida), officials from the Geneva-based Human Rights Commission.

Later, Professor Yozo Yokota visited the attorney general's office and called on Vice Attorney General U Khin Maung Aye. Also present at the meeting were Director General of Attorney General's Office U Kyaw Aye and officials from the Geneva-based Human Rights Commission.

At 1530 in the evening, Professor Yozo Yokota went to Myanmar [Burma] Television and Broadcasting Department [MTBD] and met with Brigadier General Myo Thant, minister for information and leader of the State Law and Order Restoration Council's [SLORC] Information Committee; Brig. Gen. Aung Thein, director general of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare of the ministry of defense and deputy leader; and information committee members. Present at the meeting were Information Committee members Colonel Ye Htut, curator of the military history museum and the defense services archives; U Maung Aung, director general of the Immigration and Manpower Department; Lieutenant Colonel Thein Han, director general of the Office of the Work Committee for the Development of Border Areas and National Races; Lt. Col. Kyaw Thein from the Directorate of Defense Services Intelligence; Police Major General San Thein, director general of People's Police Force; U Aye, director general of Political Department; U Kyi Lwin, director general of MTBD; U Than Maung, managing director of News and Periodicals; and Miss (Lari Fredtich) and Miss (Zenita Lida), officials from the Geneva-based Human Rights Commission.

At the meeting, enquiries were made on matters related to information committee members, the information situation, acceptance of foreign journalists, preparations for the national convention, and the immigration law. Responsible personnel from the Information Committee delivered the required answers.

In the morning, Professor Yozo Yokota and party also went to the Myanmar Red Cross Society [MRCS] and met with Chairman Dr. Tin U. Present at the meeting were U Saw Thein, vice chairman of MRCS and director general of Relief and Resettlement Department; Honorary Secretary Dr. Ko Ko Gyi; Honorary Treasurer U Tun Myint; Executive Member U Chit Sein; Executive Secretary U Myo Lwin; and Miss (Lari Fredtich) and Miss (Zenita Lida), officials from the Geneva-based Human Rights Commission.

Furthermore, Professor Yozo Yokota went to the Myanmar Maternity and Child Health Association and met with its Chairwoman Dr. Tin Tin Hmun. Also present at the meeting were Vice Chairwoman Dr. Kyu Kyu Swe; member Dr. Yee Yee Thant; and Joint Secretary Mi Mi Ohn Tin.

Meets Political Parties

BK1012141292 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Visiting United Nations Human Rights Commission representative Professor Yozo Yokota met and held talks with responsible personnel from the National League for Democracy [NLD] and the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy [SNLD] at the Defense Services Guest House on Garden Road this morning.

Professor Yozo Yokota first met and held discussions with NLD Chairman U Aung Shwe and Secretary U Lwin. The professor later met and held talks with SNLD Chairman U Khun Tun Oo and Joint General Secretary U Sai Nyunt Lwin. Present at the meeting together with Professor Yozo Yokota were Miss (Lari Fredtich) and Miss (Zenita Lida), officials from the Geneva-based Human Rights Commission.

Delegation Returns From Development Meeting

BK1012074892 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] A Burmese delegation comprising Lieutenant Colonel Thein Han, director general of the office of the Work Committee for the Development of Border Areas and National Races, and U Soe Kyi, acting director general of the forestry department, arrived back in Yangon [Rangoon] by air yesterday evening after attending the 18th meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development [ICIMOD] held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 30 November to 2 December.

The delegation also observed the ICIMOD activities, which are being implemented in Nepal, from 4-6 December.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Minister Urges Favorable U.S. Response to EAEC

BK1112020992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Dec 92 p B3

[Report on speech by Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim on the proposed East Asian Economic Caucus trade bloc and the hope that U.S. President-Elect Clinton will react favorably to it; date, place not given]

[Text] Malaysian Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim called for closer ties among Asian nations on Tuesday and said he hoped US President-elect Bill Clinton would back Malaysia's controversial idea for an East Asian economic group.

Anwar said East Asian nations should produce a single strong voice to reflect their interests.

"We in this region must not come under the delusion that our vital interests will be duly protected should the major economic powers agree to construct a new global order," Anwar said in a speech organized by the [Singapore-based] Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.

Malaysia has irked US President George Bush's administration by pushing for an East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC) to counter emerging trade groupings in Europe and North America.

It would seek Clinton's backing of the EAEC when he takes office in January.

"I do hope sincerely that the new administration takes a more positive view and does not react in such a hostile manner the moment the United States is not included in any sort of an arrangement," Anwar said.

Washington has opposed the EAEC for two years on the grounds it is exclusive and potentially protectionist. It says existing frameworks such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum are sufficient.

Singapore

Four Parties To Run in 19 Dec By-Election

BK1112101292 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 11 Dec 92 p 1

[Excerpt] Four political parties will contest the Marine Parade GRC [Group Representation Constituency] seat in the Dec. 19 by-election. By the time nominations closed at noon yesterday, the People's Action Party [PAP], the Singapore Democratic Party [SDP], the National Solidarity Party, and the Singapore Justice Party had filed their papers.

The surprise of the day was the failure of the Workers' Party [WP] to do so, though it was the first among opposition parties to declare that its hat would be in the ring. One of its four candidates did not appear, and the reserve rushed to the nomination centre at Tao Nan School at 12.07 pm, seven minutes too late to file his papers.

While Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, who will lead the PAP team in contesting the ward he has looked after since 1976, said the WP's no-show was "totally unexpected" and a comment on its credibility, he did not allow this to sidetrack him from the main message he wanted to convey to voters in a press conference he called later.

And the message, which he was at pains to reiterate, was that the by-election was all about securing the future for Singaporeans, especially the younger generations. It was for them that he called the by-election.

Mr. Goh was flanked by his two former GRC colleagues—Parliamentary Secretary Matthias Yao and Mr. Othman Haron Eusofe—and the PAP's new candidate, Commodore (Res) [Reservist] Teo Chee Hean 37, the former head of the Republic of Singapore Navy at the 40-minute press conference, which touched on a wide range of issues from his assuming the PAP secretary general's post to the SDP's arrogance. His opening words were that he had kept his promise, made last August, to hold a by-election.

Outlining the PAP's strategy, he said that the party would fight on the slogan, For A Strong Future and A Good Home. He stressed that unlike the 1991 general election in which he sought the people's mandate, he was not the issue this time. He had already received the endorsement of Singaporeans, he said. Rather, Marine Parade voters faced two issues.

First, the "big issue" of political self-renewal in Singapore—getting men of ministerial calibre to join the government.

Second, programmes to improve the lives of residents—the refurbishing of flats, the sale of tenanted HDB [Housing and Development Board] shop units, the upgrading of neighbourhood schools, and better kindergartens.

He described the coming poll as a "by-election with an unintended general election effect," as its consequences would affect the country's future greatly.

As some observers saw it, this was a deft turning of the tables on the opposition which had urged voters to treat the 1991 general election as a by-election because the PAP had already formed the government after nomination day.

Mr. Goh's pointed reminder to Singaporeans was that if his PAP team lost the Dec. 19 poll, they would lose not only Cdre Teo, who is slated to be a minister of state in two ministries, but also their prime minister. This would mean a gap in the country's leadership as both deputy prime ministers had cancer, and no one could take over from him immediately.

Explaining why he had called for a by-election, Mr. Goh reiterated that it was to renew the Cabinet for Singapore's future.

"It is because we believe passionately that for the future of younger Singaporeans, we must have strong people in the cabinet to carry on with the good work done by Mr. Lee Kuan Yew and his colleagues," he said. [passage omitted]

Joint Naval Exercise With Indonesia Begins 10 Dec

BK1012152892 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Missile corvettes from both the Singapore and Indonesian Navies are for the first time taking part in a bilateral exercise. The eight-day exercise Eagle/12 '92 in the South China Sea and the Jawa Sea started today. The two navies said antisubmarine warfare will be a feature in the exercise. This is the 12th in a series of biennial naval exercises between the two navies.

Paper Reports Four Charged Under Secrets Act

BK1112102292 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 10 Dec 92 p 3

[Excerpts] A newspaper editor, a senior Monetary Authority of Singapore [MAS] official and two executives of a securities firm were yesterday charged with breaching the Official Secrets Act.

The charges against them arose from a June 29 report in the Business Times [BT] on flash official estimates of Singapore's second quarter economic growth.

All four—Shanmugaratnam Tharman, 35, director of the MAS' economics department; Manu Bhaskaran, 34, Crosby Securities' economic research director, Foo Jong Chen, 28, a regional economist with Crosby, and Patrick Daniel, 38, BT's editor—claimed trial.

They face a maximum sentence of a $2,000 [Singapore dollars] fine or two years' jail, or both. Their cases were mentioned at 9.25 am when Deputy Public Prosecutor [DPP] Christine Lee asked for their pleas to be taken. After each pleaded not guilty the DPP asked for an eight-week adjournment. A pre-trial conference will be held in Court 1 on Feb 6. Bail of $5,000 each was offered.

At the pre-trial conference, prosecution and defence lawyers will meet the judge to discuss and finalise all documents and evidence to be introduced at the trial. The offences are inter-related. The prosecution alleges that classified information was leaked from one person to another, including a BT journalist.

The BT report said that flash estimates—quick, initial calculations—suggested that Singapore's second-quarter growth was below the first-quarter rate of 5.1 per cent. Early indications pointed to a growth of 4.6 to 4.8 per cent. The official figure announced by the Trade and Industry Ministry in August was 4.7 per cent.

Shanmugaratnam, who was the first to arrive in court, is accused of communicating confidential information on the economy's performance to Manu at the MAS office in Shenton Way on June 19.

Manu, who faces three charges, is alleged to have received the information from him that day. He is accused of then passing it to Foo at the MAS office and to BT's senior correspondent Kenneth George James, 45, at Crosby Securities in Shenton Way, that day.

Foo faces three charges—of receiving the data from Manu and of passing it both to his colleagues at Crosby and elsewhere, and to his friend, one Choy Keen Meng along Anson Road the same day.

Daniel is charged with receiving the economic data from James at Times House, Kim Seng Road, between June 19 and 29, and publishing it in BT's June 29 issue.

Miss Lee also asked District Judge Tan Siong Thye to order that the four men's international and Malaysian passports be held by Internal Security Department [ISD] officers.

Lawyers for all four accused objected. Mr Michael Khoo, for Manu, and Mr Tan Kok Quan, for Foo, said their clients, particularly Foo, who works in Malaysia had to travel out of Singapore on business frequently.

Mr K. Shanmugam, for Daniel, maintained that there was no basis for the passports to be impounded. He said there was clear case law, PP [Public Prosecutor] vs Dato' Mat, which showed that in cases where the court allowed bail, it could not then impose added conditions like the impounding of passports.

The lawyers also pointed out that all parties involved had shown due respect for the law, turned up in court, and seen ISD officers as and when required. [passage omitted]

The judge granted the DPP's application. He did not give reasons. [passage omitted]

Miss Lee had no objections to this but asked that they inform the ISD each time they returned. The judge granted the lawyers' applications. He gave no reasons. This meant, in effect, that the three got to keep their passports.

Cambodia

NADK General Denies Attack on Election Team

BK1112035292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Brigadier General Tep Sokun, liaison officer of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] in the Mixed Military Working Group [MMWG], on 28 November sent a letter to Lieutenant Colonel (Damir Milly) of the MMWG secretariat of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] concerning a request for the NADK to investigate the attack on a UN election registration team's convoy at (Sampeou Pun) village in (Svay Sar) commune, north of Siem Reap province on 24 November.

In the letter, Brig. Gen. Tep Sokun said: The area where the incident occurred is under the total control of the Vietnamese and the Phnom Penh faction and located far away from bases run by Democratic Kampuchea. The NADK had nothing to do with the incident, so we cannot assist UNTAC in the investigation. He added: The

Vietnamese have constantly acted like a thief who shouts stop thief. A number of crooked people have jointly repeated the shouting to fool the national and international opinion and to blur UNTAC's eyes in an attempt to shatter the Paris accord and crush the resistance forces with all available means, thereby swallowing Cambodia according to their strategy. Nevertheless, the covers of the Vietnamese, Vietnamese-supported Phnom Penh faction, and some bad elements have already been blown. Those who certainly know the Vietnamese and puppets' nasty maneuvers are able to distinguish the good from the bad.

Brig. Gen. Tep Sokun continued: I wish to officially make it clear to you, colonel, and, through you, to General John Sanderson that the NADK has nothing to do with the attack nor has it the chance to assist UNTAC in the investigation. The Party of Democratic Kampuchea and the entire Cambodian people are of the opinion that all incidents and problems have been fabricated by the Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Penh faction with the intent to unravel the Paris agreement. Therefore, to put an end to those incidents, especially the Vietnamese war of invasion, UNTAC should—this is the one and only possible way—cooperate with the SNC to correctly and comprehensively implement the Paris accord in keeping with the agreement's essence and spirit, specifically to verify and control the withdrawal of all categories of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia.

NADK Communique on Responsibility for Attacks

BK1012034692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 9 Dec 92

["Communique by the Spokesman of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] on the Grenade Attacks Against the Office of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea's Liaison Officers at a Hotel in the Battambang Provincial Town"—dated 9 December; read by announcer]

[Text] 1. At 2130 on 27 November 1992, there was a spate of grenade attacks against the offices of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], the party of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], and the party of KPNLF [Khmer People's National Liberation Front] at the Chey Chumneah hotel in the Battambang provincial town. And as a result, a passerby was wounded and some vehicles of the PDK were damaged.

2. Who was responsible for the cruel and barbarous action and what was the cause or purpose of the attacks?

It is not the PDK that should be responsible. It is certainly the Vietnamese and their puppets' secret police agents who were responsible for the action since the Vietnamese's puppet regime is fascist and has the Vietnamese and puppet police agents as cat's-paws and since UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] has given them a free hand to act at will.

3. Their goal is to intimidate and oust from various offices the three parties that are mentioned in the Paris accord. In addition, the Vietnamese aggressors, the Vietnamese puppets, and UNTAC have joined forces to prevent the PDK from stationing their officers in the provinces of Kompong Thom, Stung Treng, Kompong Cham, Kampot, and Kompong Som and at various naval bases and so on. This is because they only want to preserve the forces of the Vietnamese, puppets, and UNTAC so they are able to act together unchecked, and then they will publicly announce that they act in the name of the United Nations. This is a flagrant violation, opposition, and destruction of the Paris 23 October 1991 accord and clearly demonstrates that the alliances outside and inside UNTAC have colluded with the Vietnamese to implement a different agreement that aims only at preserving a sole party in Phnom Penh. This can clearly be seen.

4. Who are the cat's-paws? It is a secret police service set up by the Vietnamese and their puppets following the signing of the Paris accord. It includes the M3 police unit, which is responsible for monitoring activities and collecting information on other political parties; the special police unit called X whose mission is to destroy and eliminate other parties and their members; and the secret police unit called T90 which has the general tasks of monitoring, spying, destroying, and liquidating the resistance forces and the people who carry out activities to demand the correct implementation of the Paris accord and to resist the annexationist race-exterminating aggressor Vietnamese bandits. Along with these, there are also other overt and covert police services in Phnom Penh, provinces, districts, and various localities.

In sum, since the existence of the Paris accord, the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets, given a free hand by the alliances inside and outside UNTAC, have set up various types of fascist suppressive machines with the aim of sabotaging the Paris 23 October 1991 accord and destroying the people, the resistance forces, and the political parties that intend to carry out their activities. They use every method to shatter the forces opposing the Vietnamese with the aim of preserving the Vietnamese's puppet regime in control of Cambodia as the sole party and threatening and coaxing other parties to merge into the Vietnamese puppet party.

However, the general public inside and outside the country has already clearly seen the true nature of the Vietnamese, Vietnamese puppets, and alliances inside and outside UNTAC, despite their constant strategic maneuvers. The general public has joined forces to defeat their infamous schemes one after the other. And in the future, they pledge to continue joining hands to further crush the strategic, tactical schemes more vigorously.

5. The National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] wishes to make it clear that we have assigned our liaison officers to various posts within the framework of the Paris accord and that only after tenacious struggles within

UNTAC and within the four parties have our representatives been allowed to be stationed in some areas. This has clearly demonstrated that—whether or not the Vietnamese, puppets, and UNTAC have cooperated in implementing the Paris accord—Democratic Kampuchea wants to collaborate at all times.

The NADK vehemently denounces the cruel fascist actions by the Vietnamese and their puppets and wishes to declare to the national and international communities that in the future, if any grenade attack, strike, or assassination occurs in any form, it will be the Vietnamese and their puppets who should be held totally responsible. Also, the alliances inside and outside UNTAC will be held accountable as well.

[Dated] 9 December 1992.
[Signed] The spokesman of the NADK.

KR Dry-Season Offensive 'Started' in Battambang

BK1112130192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 11 Dec 92

["Latest News"]

[Text] According to a source in Battambang Province, the Khmer Rouge [KR] have now started their dry-season offensive in violation of the Paris peace plan. According to the source, at 0500 on 9 December a large Khmer Rouge contingent of Division 415 fired several artillery rounds on Bavel, Ta Hen, and Pongro Leu districts as their infantry troops raided the 38th Battalion position. Following a brief resistance against the Khmer Rouge's fierce attack, we were forced to temporarily abandon the position. Three of our men were killed and five others wounded. Seven civilians were also injured.

Hanoi Rejects Son Sann's 8 Dec Voting Proposal

BK1112063292 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Phnom Penh 11 December (SPK)—Hanoi rejected on Wednesday 9 December Mr. Son Sann's proposal that Cambodians of Vietnamese origin be allowed to take part in the UN-organized legislative elections in Cambodia in 1993.

Those elections "do not concern the Cambodians having Vietnamese nationality who are currently living in Vietnam," AFP quotes a spokesman of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry as saying.

Mr. Son Sann, at a meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] in Phnom Penh on Tuesday 8 December, demanded that the "Khmers Kraom" [Vietnamese of Cambodian origin] living in Vietnam be allowed to participate in the elections. He made the request on behalf of both the Khmer People's National Liberation Front he leads and FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]—the supporter of Prince Sihanouk—which represent the noncommunist Cambodian opposition groups.

"The Paris accord on Cambodia and the law on general elections already adopted by the SNC have clearly specified the people who can participate in those elections," the Vietnamese spokesman said.

The legislation stipulates that only those who were born in Cambodia from parents who themselves were born in Cambodia are eligible to vote.

SNC Dec 8 Meeting Derided as 'Playful'

BK1112025892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 10 Dec 92

[From the "News in Brief" feature: "Report on the Supreme National Council's Meeting on 8 December 1992"]

[Text] In the opinion of various analysts, the meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] on 8 December 1992 was playful because the gathering was downgraded from an SNC meeting to a mere working meeting: None of the key leaders, including Mr. Khieu Samphan and Prince Norodom Ranariddh, took part in the meeting, nor did SNC Chairman Prince Norodom Sihanouk preside over the meeting.

The general public noted that Mr. Akashi kept sighing because he clearly realized that the meeting was futile. In previous meetings presided over by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Mr. Akashi always behaved like a master. And when the prince was absent, no one wanted to meet with the group of crooked people. Alone, Mr. Akashi was not able to solve any problem, and UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and the SNC could not do anything either.

It is well known that when assassination or intimidation against any political party takes place, Mr. Akashi always tells the Vietnamese puppets' police agents to investigate. As such, UNTAC is not able to ensure and maintain a neutral political environment at all since the Vietnamese and puppets continue to control security affairs.

The Cambodian and international opinions have clearly seen that the 8 December SNC meeting was a failure. So if such a meeting is held in the future, it would also be futile.

University Students 'Harassed' on Joining Parties

BK1112104892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0834 GMT 11 Dec 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] PHNOM PENH, Dec 11 (AFP)—Cambodian university students who join opposition parties are being harassed by police and university officials who warn them against political activity.

The warnings, coming on the heels of a spate of politically motiviated killings of opposition party members in the provinces and at least 10 extra-judicial killings, have spread a climate of fear thoughout the various faculties, according to students interviewed by AFP.

The U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), the world's largest peacekeeping mission with the aim of holding free and fair elections by May 1993, is not able to control the police who are compiling lists of people they feel are "betraying the government," the students say.

"UNTAC is not strong enough to protect me," one 22-year-old medical student and clandestine opposition party member said as he looked nervously over his shoulder.

Im Sahakvuth, a first year student at the Institute of Economics and a member of the royalist FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party, said secret police drove up alongside his motorbike one night last week and slapped him on the back of the head.

"They told me 'Don't stray too far from the course,'" he said. "They know I am a member of FUNCINPEC."

This week, 18 students at Phnom Penh's Faculty of Medicine—the hotbed of anti-government demonstrations that left up to a dozen people dead one year ago—were summoned by their dean and warned to keep away from politics. The list of the 18 students had come from the police.

"He told us that somebody had accused us of joining another political party, and said if you did join them, please quit. He said your duty is to read and to pass your examinations," said Nhek Cham Nan, 23.

The dean invited them to denounce any political involvement in writing in order to clear their names, he said. Nhek Cham Nan wrote the denunciation letter, but said he was afraid what it would mean for his studies and his personal safety. His classmate, 23-year-old Lim Pech, said he was also summoned, but without reason.

"I am very angry about the accusation because I don't know anything about other political parties," he said. "I worry about my name being on the police lists."

The dean, Ly Po, said in an interview that as a teacher for 47 years he had never seen any good come from political activity, and he only wanted to keep the students, whom he regarded as sons, out of trouble.

"In the end, some students just end up dead. I want them to study...so I just advised them, explained to them that they will just bring trouble for themselves and their families," he said. "I only want the best for them, to study hard and have a bright future."

But he defended the police practice of compiling names of students, saying they have the right to stabilize the security of the country.

The angry students said they were considering demonstrating, but they were afraid of repeating the violent riots of one year ago when police opened fire on the demonstrators and many were killed.

"I think it's a violation of our human rights," said another 23-year-old medical student who was afraid to give his name but said about half of his 2,000 classmates are politically active even in the government's Cambodian People's Party.

"People have the right to join all political parties," he said. "They have the freedom to choose their leaders.

New Party Head on Group's Philosophy, Goals

BK1012131092 Phnom Penh CAMBODIA TIMES in English 23-29 Nov 92 p 5

[By Tham Wei Mei]

[Text] A new political party recently joined the fold of mushrooming parties in Cambodia, intensifying the pre-campaign atmosphere just months away from next year's UN-supervised general elections. The Reachea Niyum [Royalist] Party (RNP), an offshoot of FUNCINPEC, was provisionally registered last November 6 as the 13th party to vie for seats in the forthcoming elections.

FUNCINPEC is the French acronym for the United National Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia and is headed by HRH Prince Norodom Ranariddh, son of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's former king.

"Our party philosophy is that monarchy is the only method Cambodia can achieve peace," party president Mr. Pen Daret explained.

"From our observation of other countries practicing constitutional monarchy such as Thailand and Malaysia," he observed, "it seemed to be the main reason why they can maintain peace."

The RNP president admitted that while working for a constitutional monarchy was the main factor for the setting up of their own party, he said that it was, however, not the sole reason.

According to Daret, monarchism does not mean giving up basic rights, nor does it mean a loss of liberalism. In fact, said the new party leader, his group's members pride themselves as being liberal and open.

"We encourage a diversity of religion and belief and in our eyes, all these religions and cultural beliefs will have equal status as they are all part of the Cambodian people. To discriminate against any one religion smacks of prejudice," he said.

No doubt some of the other political parties, he continued, have also claimed that they are liberal and will allow religious freedom, but they also believe that Buddhism should be the backbone of the country, therefore stultifying the others. This is not being supportive of the people's rights, he stated.

"The party is set up for Cambodians and we want to defend all Cambodians, not merely Buddhists or Muslims or Christians."

According to Daret, monarchism is essential for Cambodia because when the country was ruled by a king before, peace reigned, there was adequate food, and the people had education which was vital for a progressive nation.

"I came from a poor family and my parents lived in the countryside. I would never have gotten an opportunity to study if not for peace in the country which can be attributed to the king," he stated.

Thanks to the monarchy system, Cambodia had peace then and Daret was awarded a scholarship to study abroad, something young people had no opportunity to do during the long war that has gripped the country for two decades. Daret claimed that the reason why there was peace for so long before the war, was because the king played an important role of holding together the fragmented pieces by providing the people with an identity and tradition.

This constitutional monarchy system is practiced successfully throughout the world, as shown by neighbouring examples in Thailand and Malaysia, he noted. He explained that these two countries have peace because the monarchy, representing a symbol of power, provides a sound foundation for the nation and unifies the people.

Many Cambodians, Daret said, subscribe to this idea, too, as is proven by the warm reception from the people.

In the two weeks they have opened, as many as 10,000 people have registered even before party leaders started the publicity campaigns and propaganda.

When asked how the party will compete with other more established parties like FUNCINPEC, their mother party, Daret said he was convinced RNP has an edge over the former. FUNCINPEC, he said, has deviated from its absolute royalist belief, supporting a presidential system.

Daret has had a long history with FUNCINPEC. During his stay in Netherlands from 1976 to 1982 getting his doctorate in music and political science, he helped establish FUNCINPEC in the early 1980's. To him therefore, it was especially saddening when the party deviated from its monarchic policy. This prompted him to start his own party to continue the policy.

In 1983, Daret was appointed as Prince Sihanouk's representative in Belgium while from 1984 to 1986, he was the head of the external affairs, development, cooperation and information at Sihanouk's representative office in Bangkok working under the patronage of Prince Ranariddh. From 1986 to Nov 14 last year, he was the representative of Prince Sihanouk. In addition, he was the president of the FUNCINPEC party in Netherlands from its inception in 1981 until the present. FUNCINPEC party funds are derived from party members in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Austria, Australia, the U.S. and Canada.

The idea of the Reachea Niyum party was mooted in 1988 but was only finally realised when representatives from the major donor countries came to the conclusion to establish the FUNCINPEC Royalist Party in April 18 this year, Daret said. The name was later changed to Reachea Niyum Party sometime in end-August.

When asked how Daret thinks the party will fare compared to FUNCINPEC, he predicted that with more than half of the FUNCINPEC party members disillusioned with FUNCINPEC, they would likely join the Reachea Niyum Party, which, he reiterated, "is the genuine royalist party."

Indonesia

Agreement on Machinery Trade Signed With PRC

BK1112033992 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Indonesia and the PRC last night signed an agreement on machinery trade and discussed an investment agreement on exploitation of the two countries' natural resources. After the singing of the contract, Trade Minister Arifin Siregar said the PRC would import 70,000 cubic meters of plywood and purchase 2 million tons of oil worth U.S. $300 million from Indonesia. In return, the PRC will sell electrical equipment spare-parts to [name indistinct] and machinery for a cement factory to Mercu Buana Co. Ltd. The two sides have also agreed to sign two accords on investment guarantees and on avoidance of double taxation.

Sudharmono Hails Economic Cooperation With PRC

BK1112100892 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0837 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Jakarta, Dec. 11 (OANA/ANTARA)—Vice President Sudharmono has responded positively to the results of economic cooperation between Indonesia and the People's Republic of China (PRC) and has pledged his support for its future promotion, said Chinese Trade Minister Li Lanqing after a meeting with the vice president here on Friday. Sudharmono said that there is great potential and good prospects for the two countries to further develop their economic relationship.

During the last four days of the Chinese minister's visit, Indonesia and PRC agreed to actively seek cooperation possibilities in the fields of economics, technology, and investment in during the last four days of the Chinese minister's visit. [sentence as received]

The vice president has responded positively and supportively to that end, Minister Li Lanqing said. Cooperation which is based upon their respective trade strength may not only benefit each country's domestic market but may also lead to third country's exports, the vice president said.

Minister Li Lanqing said that Vice President Sudharmono had suggested cooperative dam development project. We will encourage the businessmen in our country to make the cooperative dam project a reality, he said.

President Suharto, meanwhile, has suggested cooperation in the wood processing industry, he quoted Vice President Sudharmono as saying.

ICRC Officials Meet Fretilin Detainees in Dili

BK1112101092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0903 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Dili, Dec. 11 (OANA/ANTARA)—Officials from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on Friday visited detained members of the Security Disturbing Movement (GPK) [official term for the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor, Fretilin] in East Timor and talked with Armandina Gusmao, the sister of the recently captured GPK leader, Xanana.

Armandina Gusmao is being accomodated at the Military Command here for her own safety.

ICRC officials have also met with Xanana who is being detained at the Police Headquarters in Jakarta.

One of the ICRC officials, Pierre Pont, said that the matter is entirely the Indonesian Government's affairs and that ICRC has no authority over political matters. A large number of the East Timor GPK members have surrendered following Xanana's capture.

Xanana's sister, Armandina Gusmao, accompanied by her husband, told ANTARA that her interrogation as a member of Xanana's inner circle has stopped pending new developments. I have no problems at all here. The men are all good, she said.

ICRC officials met with Armandina and her husband in a room (not a detention room) for an hour and also visited the Military Command detainees for an hour.

Alatas on National Human Rights Commission

BK1112132692 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] The establishment by the government of a national commission on human rights is not a reaction to various criticisms by Western countries of of human rights implementation in Indonesia. The commission will have wider objectives such as giving counseling on human rights as well as considering and formulating their implementation.

Speaking after inaugurating the Nurul Iman Mosque at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Jakarta today, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said that the idea of establishing the national commission on human rights came following a seminar at the Department of Foreign Affairs last year. According to Ali Alatas, the government is determined not to be on the defensive or to avoid discussions on human rights. The issue, however, should be put in proper proportion as desired by the UN Charter.

On talks with Portugal on the East Timor issue, Minister Ali Alatas said that Indonesia would listen to proposals or ideas put forward by Portugal at the initial stage. Prior to a tripartite dialogue on the East Timor, each party will hold separate talks with the UN secretary general.

Laos

Minister Comments in Malaysia on Drug Eradication

BK1112052492 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0320 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 11 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Lao Government will continue its efforts to suppress drug trafficking in its territory and eradicate the growing of opium-producing poppy among its tribal population, its Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat said Thursday.

His country had set up a special unit to combat drug trafficking and large quantities of drugs had been seized in operations against drug traffickers and warlords, he added.

Last year, five tonnes of marijuana and 300 kg of raw opium were seized, he told reporters here at the end of the official visit of Lao Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon.

Souban, who also heads the country's anti-drug committee, said seizures of the two types of narcotics this year equalled last year's figures except for another 10 kg of heroin recently seized by the authorities.

Reaffirming Laos' commitment to combatting the drug menace, especially trafficking from his country, he said: "If military personnel are involved, they will have to face Laotian law."

He added, however, that it was difficult to say how long the war against drugs in his country would take as there were clandestine groups and individuals involved.

Several warlords, mainly involved in the illicit opium and heroin trade, including the notorious Khun Sa, operated in a region widely known as the Golden Triangle, straddling the common borders of Laos, Burma, and Thailand.

Souban said Laos was a signatory of the 1988 United Nations-sponsored drug charter adopted in Vienna and it actively participated in international seminars on combating drugs.

Vientiane also had an agreement with the United States on combating drug trafficking and the eradication of poppy growing, he added.

At present, his government was involved in several joint programmes, costing U.S.$20 million, which focussed on substituting poppy with other cash crops in the northern provinces, he said.

Turning to Laos-Malaysia ties, Souban said the establishment of a road transport link between Malaysia and Laos through Thailand would help boost trade between the two countries.

This was discussed between officials of the two governments during the three-day visit of the Laotian prime minister but the matter would be studied further by a joint commission to be set up.

Two days ago, Malaysia and Laos signed an air services agreement, an investment guarantee agreement and a technical, scientific and economic cooperation agreement. The three agreements would provide for the enhancement of bilateral relations, especially trade, between the two countries.

Siphandon, who headed a 19-member delegation, left for home Friday.

Delegation Returns 10 Dec

BK1112034792 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and a Lao Government delegation headed by him ended an official friendship visit to Malaysia and returned to Vientiane yesterday. During the three-day visit, H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon and the Lao Government delegation met and held talks with H.E. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, Malaysian prime minister, and other high-ranking officials of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur on the afternoon of 8 December. The talks and exchange of views between the two sides proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding.

H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon, alluding to the outcome of the talks in his speech at a banquet held in his honor by Mahathir in Kuala Lumpur on the evening of 8 December, said: Laos and Malaysia are two neighboring countries who have maintained good relations for a long time. The peoples of the two countries have maintained similar cultures and customary practices. They have cherished peace, rights to self-mastery and ownership of the country, progress, and social justice. Moreover, in the past, the two peoples have suffered the same fate, the fate of being invaded, intervened in, and occupied by foreign countries. This fact has made the peoples of our two countries come to clearly understand the precious value of peace, freedom, and national independence. They appreciate the significance of genuine friendship and cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit in (?international) relations. For this reason, the exchange of views between myself and H.E. Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed has reached a good mutual understanding. As a result, the two sides signed an agreement on the promotion of investments and on cooperation in the economic, scientific, technical, and civil aviation fields. The success serves as a firm basis for the promotion and expansion of relations and cooperation between the two countries in the future. We pledge to do our best to translate into reality the contents of the signed agreement.

H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon and the delegation also called on the paramount ruler of Malaysia and visited various historical places as well as business units and a number of economic establishments in Kuala Lumpur and other cities.

H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon was received upon his arrival at Wattai Airport in Vientiane by H.E. Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; H.E. Choummali Sai-gnason, minister of national defense; H.E. Oudom Khatthi-gna, governor of Vientiane Municipality; and H.E. Thongsing Thammavong, head of the Organizing Committee of the party Central Committee; along with ministers, deputy ministers, and a large crowd of high-ranking cadres. Ku Jaafar bin Kushaari, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Malaysian Embassy in Laos, was also on hand to receive the Lao Government delegation at the airport.

Xieng Khouang Province Faces Rice Shortage

BK1012125192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 10 Dec 92

[PASASON article: "Main Rice Production in Xieng Khouang Province"—date not given]

[Summary] "Respected listeners, the most worrisome and difficult problem facing the people in Xieng Khouang Province at the moment is the shortage of food, especially rice. This is because the main-season rice planting this year has been severely affected by natural calamities, thus contributing to a shortfall in rice production."

According to the provincial governor, natural calamities have inflicted severe losses to rice planting in two areas of the province this year. The province consists of 19,500 square kilometers and has an estimated 39,000 hectares of arable land—12,000 hectares of which are ricefields. According to reports from some localities in the province, due to climatic changes this year, food production in the province this year will not fail to meet targets. "The main-season rice planting in the province has been affected by natural calamities, especially drought. As a result, rice planting on about 10 percent of the ricefields could not be carried out while the planting on some 50 percent of the total rice-planting acreage was not carried out on time. As a result, the rice harvest in some areas is expected to be unproductive because it appears that rice ears are unhealthy and have no seeds."

Even though the main season rice harvest is energetically under way in the province, it is anticipated that the output will fall short of production targets. On average, it is estimated that only 2.4 metric tons of paddy can be harvested on one acre of main rice fields and 1.6 metric tons on upland fields in the province this year. "Therefore, based on the fact that a person consumes approximately 350 kilograms of paddy per year, it is predicted that the total population of 19,000 persons in the province will face a rice shortage for several months. This means that the province will need more than 10,000 metric tons of additional rice to meet consumption requirements this year."

Ceremony Marks International Volunteers' Day

BK0712092792 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] The Foreign Economic Relations Ministry held a ceremony in Vientiane this morning to celebrate the seventh anniversary of International Volunteers' Day, 5 December 1985-5 December 1992. The ceremony was intended to express greetings and best wishes to foreign volunteers working in Laos. Attending the ceremony as chairman of the Lao side was Dr. Kithong Vongsai, deputy minister of foreign economic relations, and attending as chairperson of the international side was (Ms. Amerah Haq-perera), resident representative to Laos from the United Nations Development Program [UNDP]. Also attending were (Ms. Mocmari Srith), representative of the international volunteers, along with more than 90 international volunteers and Lao cadres representing various ministries, departments or units, and development projects concerned.

On this occasion, Dr. Kithong Vongsai, as chairman of the ceremony and on behalf of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], delivered a speech extending a warm welcome and best wishes to the international volunteers of the UNDP, the Japanese international volunteer organization, and the volunteer organizations of Australia, Germany, France, Canada, and other countries which have been performing their duties in socioeconomic development assistance projects in the LPDR.

He said: The LPDR is among many countries which have acknowledged the significance of international volunteers' day. It has highly assessed the contributions of volunteers to developing the economy and society of the LPDR in recent years as well as in the present. Dr. Kithong Vongsai added: The LPDR Government understands that all international volunteers' teams have performed their significant duties in the LPDR in a high spirit of responsibility and in a highly effective manner. They have worked in various projects of significant sectors such as agriculture, machinery repair, infrastructure construction, road construction, French and English language teaching, public health, community development, management, and so forth.

As of 1992, there are altogether 60 international volunteers working to assist the LPDR. They include 25 United Nations volunteers and 19 volunteers from the Japanese volunteer organization, six from the Australian volunteer organization, five from the Canadian volunteer organization, and six from the German volunteer organization. These volunteers have given worthwhile contributions to the cause of setting up economic and social establishments in Laos in accordance with the general objectives and strategy of the third five-year socioeconomic development plan of the LPDR, from 1991 to 1995, as adopted by the fifth congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] in March 1991.

Philippines

Ramos Orders State Firms Not To Sign Foreign Loans

HK1112050792 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos has released a directive which prohibits government-owned corporations as well as monetary institutions from signing foreign loan agreements. The order encompasses all financial institutions granting agricultural, industrial, and commercial loans.

Ramos said the customary practice of signing foreign loans has brought big financial losses to the country as well as allowed institutions to evade payment of documentary stamp taxes.

Security Adviser Urges No Defense Treaty Review

HK1012040792 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 10 Dec 92 p 4

[Report by G. Jacinto]

[Text] National Security adviser Jose Almonte yesterday urged lawmakers to drop a proposal seeking to review the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty [MDT] to strengthen military ties with the United States.

Appearing before the House committee on foreign affairs chaired by Rep. Jaime Lopez (NUCD [National Union of Christian Democrats]- Manila), Almonte cautioned the proponents of a measure to review the MDT "saying it would be an act in futility to pursue such a proposal."

"Treaties don't matter that much and are not as important as the relationship between the two countries," Almonte said.

Almonte urged the lawmakers to look at the treaty in the light of the new leadership in both countries.

"We must develop our own, self-reliant defense program. Otherwise, we would be dragged in a situation that will embarrass us, taking into account that our country would be as not capable of defending our own territory," he said.

Earlier, Batangas Rep. Ralph Recto has filed a resolution seeking to review the treaty.

Almonte's stand on the issue was supported by political scientists from the University of the Philippines led by Prof. Merlyn Magallona and Prof. Roland Simbulan, chairman of the Nuclear Free Philippines Coalition.

Also during the hearing, Reps. Manuel Sanches (LP [Liberal Party]-Rizal) and Bonifacio Gillego (IND [Independent]-Sorsogon) suggested instead that the Philippine government seek stronger ties with the U.S. based on trade and economic policies.

Sanches said the government should re-direct its priority towards strengthening trade and economic ties with the U.S. and "reshape the country's policies in terms of foreign military dependency."

Senate Debates National Budget Bill

HK1112055092 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 11 Dec pp 1, 6

[Report by Mario Casayuran and Olaf Giron]

[Text] The opposition-dominated Senate, in a surprise move, slashed yesterday P28.2 billion [Philippine pesos] from the P128-billion debt service automatically appropriated by Malacanang and in the process placed itself on a collision course with the pro-administration House of Representatives.

However, the Senate tentatively restored the bulk of the P1.8 billion it earlier cut from President Ramos' proposed 1993 P330 billion national budget after it agreed to a move by Sen. Arturo Tolentino to realign the P28.2 billion to the Department of Health.

Speaker Jose de Venecia immediately sought a meeting with Sen Edgardo J. Angara, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, after the Senate ended its plenary session at noon yesterday. De Venecia's effort was an apparent attempt to head off a confrontation between the House and the Senate over the Tolentino proposal.

Leaders of the pro-administration, 200-member House of Representatives reduced to near zero last Wednesday a move by the majority of their members to repeal Presidential Decree [PD] No. 1177, otherwise known as the Automatic Appropriations Act, in their bid to restore to Congress its power of appropriation, particularly over the debt service. [sentence as published]

In the same bold stroke, House leaders also killed a bill putting a ceiling of 10 percent on the country's export receipts to service the $29-billion foreign debt. The debt cap had been rejected by the Supreme Court following two successive veotes by former President Aquino.

As of yesterday morning, members of the Senate had tentatively agreed on a P329.7-billion budget as against the House-approved budget of P229 billion.

Acceptance by the Senate as a whole of the Tolentino amendment to the proposed 1993 P330-billion General Appropriations Act (GAA), otherwise known as the national budget, did not come as a surprise at the 24-member Upper House.

There are persistent reports of a Malacanang-initiated move to oust Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) [Struggle of Filipino Democrats] President Neptali A. Gonzales as Senate President.

Gonzales said he would not hold on to the top Senate post "any minute longer," adding that the Senate floor is a more enjoyable "battle field."

The skirmish over the "debt cap" issue was expected to take place next week when the bicameral conference committees of both Houses meet to iron out the differing provisions of their budgets. Congress has to approve a national budget before adjourning for the Christmas season on Dec. 22.

With the individual amendments to restore parts of the budget to be submitted in writing late today, Senator Angara, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said he expected the General Appropriations Act to be approved on second, and third and final readings Monday morning.

The chairmen and members of the bicameral conference committees of the Senate and the Lower House will then meet on Tuesday, Angara said.

The Tolentino amendment was accepted without any protest following an agreement among the senators for the immediate approval of the budget and for the immediate resolution of the ticklish provisions by the bicameral conference committee.

Angara, who is being pushed to succeed Gonzales following a visit to his Makati residence by President Ramos last Saturday, said the better and direct alternative to the Tolentino proposal is to repeal PD 1177.

Japan, a member of the Paris Club made up of industrialized countries to extend loans to developing countries, had warned the Philippine Government of repercussions if it pushes through with its debt-cap measure.

Tolentino explained that his move was not a "debt cap" but only "determines the reduced payment from the amount determined by the President's budget in the exercise of the legislative power over the nation's purse."

Former Budget Under-secretary Benjamin Diokno, technical consultant to the Angara committee, said close to P15 billion from the P28.2 billion represents a "hidden" subsidy to Central Bank's losses of P308 billion, while the remainder represents savings from reduced interest rates and the peso difference in the peso-dollar foreign currency exchange.

Tolentino said he will prepare an elaborate system of placing the P28.2 billion cuts in the budget to put the President in a bind.

Senate observers had earlier said adoption of the proposed Tolentino budget cut would tie the President's hand because a veto of a specific provision dealing with this specific subject is an indirect repeal of PD 1177.

As crafted by Tolentino, the remaining P99.8 billion domestic and foreign debt service is broken into three categories: Domestic debt, foreign debt service, and contingency.

For domestic debt service, P37.1 billion and P2.1 billion are allocated for interest and principal amortization respectively, as regular accounts, and P4 billion for interest and P5.8 billion in amortization as assumed liabilities, or a total of P49.1 billion. [figures as published]

For foreign-debt service, P13 billion and P11.8 billion are allocated for interest and amortization payments, and P6.1 billion and P10.5 million, respectively, for assumed liabilities.

For contingency, P9 billion is set aside for any fluctuations in the foreign exchange rates.

To deter Malacanang from realigning the specified amounts, Tolentino asked that the appropriated funds be used exclusively for domestic and foreign debts, including the liabilities of the Philippine National Bank (PNB), Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP), Philgurantee, National Development Corporation (NDC) and the Philippine Airlines (PAL).

Other highlights of yesterday's Senate debate on the national budget were:

1. The half-billion appropriation for the purchase of six Italian-made S2-11 trainer jets and 150 experimental British-made Simba armored personnel carriers were realigned to the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

2. Only P200 million was restored from the P503 million cut from the original P1-billion budget for the Civilian Armed Force Geographical Units (CAFGU), a paramilitary organization, after Sen. Orlando Mercado asked for a policy statement that the number of CAFGUs must be gradually phased out.

3. Sen. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo resisted demands for the restoration of P400 million to the National Food Authority (NFA) because its subsidized purchase of rice has not helped the farmers and called for the realignment of the P400 million for the construction of post-harvest structures.

4. Sen. Teofisto Guingona assailed proposed reductions in the Malacanang-submitted budget as "distorting the country's growth-oriented program" and called for a budget whose expenditures spur more production activities.

Guingona said the proposal of the Angara committee reducing the programmed expenditure by P7.5 billion and P10 billion from the unprogrammed funds makes the budget "less productive, less growth-oriented, more inflationary, and, therefore, more prejudicial to the citizenry."

Guingona said that a growth-oriented budget is one which generates more jobs and sets up key infrastructures needed to open up more markets and better transport and communications to draw investments. It should embody expenditures that are not inflationary, Guingona said. He said the reductions would affect capital outlays for needed infrastructures while allocating P4.8 billion for salary increases of teachers.

Pointing out that he had always been for salary increases for teachers and that he had filed a bill for a teacher's bank and fought against illegal deductions from their salaries, Guingona stressed:

"When a father or a family has five children, he should not give allowances to only one child, nor compound the injustice by depriving the entire farm of needed irrigation that could bring more income to the family."

In a related development, Sen. Raul Roco proposed an amendment to the General Appropriations Act to insert the funding for the election of sectoral representatives in the national budget for 1993.

He said that Sections 446, 457, and 467 of the Local Government Code of 1991 identify three sectoral representatives for the Sangguniang Bayan, Panlungsod, and Panlalawigan, [Town, City and Provincial Councils], respectively.

Roco said the General Appropriations Bill filed in the House of Representatives failed to include the expenditures for the sectoral elections.

"We cannot disregard the sectoral representatives because this is mandated by the law. Disregarding them means we are disregarding some sectors in our society," the senator said.

CPP Chairman Sison Confirms Party Split

HK1012063992 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 10 Dec 92 pp 1, 11

[Text] Jose Ma [Maria] Sison, controversial chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] yesterday brought into the open a serious split within the party and dampened prospects for formal talks with the government.

In a press statement faxed to the INQUIRER from his Netherlands exile, Sison denounced three released CPP cadres as being part of a government plan to discredit the central party leadership "in a futile attempt to decapitate and destroy the CPP."

Sison identified the three "renegades" as Ricardo Reyes, alleged ex-CPP secretary general; Benjamin de Vera, alleged ex-chief of the Mindanao Commission; and Romulo Kintanar, alleged ex-commander of the New People's Army [NPA].

Sison said the government's "intelligence and psywar [psychological warfare] scheme" indicates that President Ramos seeks to end the 23-year communist insurgency not through peace talks but by "weakening the revolutionary movement and compelling it to capitulate."

"General Ramos has never been interested in any serious formal bilateral peace negotiations (with) the National Democratic Front and is currently not interested in pursuing exploratory talks toward these," Sison said.

He said Mr Ramos still "holds up as a model the peace negotiations that have led to the liquidation of the revolutionary armed struggle in El Salvador."

Salvadoran leftist rebels recently started surrendering their arms in accordance with the terms of the UN-brokered peace agreement in the Latin American country.

Sison said Mr Ramos is pitting "his experts and some renegades previously identified with the CPP" against the central party leadership "to undermine, weaken and destroy from within the party that leads the NPA."

The so-called three renegades whom Sison had identified were allegedly members of the CPP Central Committee when they were captured.

"Three of those recently released (Ricardo Reyes, Benjamin de Vera and Rollie Kintanar) are now prominently active in a psywar campaign to discredit the CPP central leadership in a futile attempt to decapitate and destroy the CPP," he said.

Sources, both from the military and communist underground, said the growing split within the communist movement stemmed not only from differing views on the peace talks but also from questions of party leadership.

Sources said the rift deepened in July this year when some CPP Central Committee members convened a plenum somewhere in Southern Tagalog and re-elected Sison as party chairman.

In at least two faxed statements to the INQUIRER, Sison has declined to comment on his reported assumption of the party chairmanship. In a Dec 8 statement, Sison identified himself "as one who professionally follows Philippine developments very closely."

Sources said the controversial plenum elected Benito Tiamzon as the vice chairman, and his wife, Wilma Austria, as secretary general.

But sources said only eight out of the 30 CPP Central Committee members attended the plenum, prompting other cadres to question its legality.

The sources also said the plenum approved a controversial document, "Reaffirm Our Basic Principles and Rectify the Errors," written by Armando Liwanag, one of Sison's alleged nom de guerre.

The document—copies seized from a suspected communist leader have been declassified by the military—called for a reaffirmation of the Maoist strategy of surrounding the cities from the countryside through a protracted guerilla war.

The document repudiates the strategy of seizing political power through an insurrection in Metro Manila and other key cities through heavy use of big NPA formations, including urban guerilla units like the Alex Boncayao Brigade.

In a press statement on Dec. 8, Sison said he was informed "that those who oppose the rectification movement most bitterly are those who have been the most responsible for the militarist viewpoint, the gross reduction of mass base, witch-hunts of monstrous proportions (violative of all sense of democracy and decency) and degeneration into gangsterism."

Steps Up Attacks on Former Followers

HK1112041092 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 11 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Exiled communist leader Jose Ma. [Maria] Sison yesterday stepped up his attacks on three prominent leftists, saying they have been recruited by the military not to push peace talks but to crush the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

In two faxed statements from his Netherlands exile, Sison insisted "there is no split" within the party, adding the CPP Central Committee continued to exercise "full effective leadership" and "enjoys the united support" of members.

But the three released cadres whom Sison branded as "renegades" said they will issue "a major statement" today on the split within the party and answer accusations made by the founding CPP chairman against them.

The three are Ricardo Reyes, alleged ex-CPP secretary general; Benjamin de Vera, alleged exchief of the CPP Mindanao Commission; and Romulo Kintanar, alleged ex-commander of the New People's Army.

The three, who attended a Human Rights Day rally on Don Chino Roces Bridge near Malacanang, deferred comment on Sison's charges that they are part of a government plan "to decapitate and destroy the CPP."

"Let's put off this issue for tomorrow. Let's offer this day for our comrades in prison," Reyes told the INQUIRER. "I will make a major statement on the split tomorrow."

Reyes said he will issue the statement this morning at the Pasig Regional Trial Court during a hearing of a rebellion case against De Vera, Kintanar and three other CPP leaders.

Satur Ocampo, former head of the National Democratic Front [NDF], was the rally but he also declined to comment on Sison's statements.

Yorac Reacts

Haydee Yorac, chairman of the National Unification Commission [NUC], said the reported split within the CPP will hardly affect the peace process and the NUC will continue to deal with the Utretch-based NDF leaders.

"No, not at all," Yorac replied when asked if the CPP split will imperil the peace talks aimed at ending the 23-year communist insurgency.

"Our position has always been that we will deal with the persons legally authorized by the party. At the moment it is Mr Luis Jalandoni," she said.

Yorac said President Ramos will schedule soon a second round of exploratory talks sought by Jalandoni but added these must be held here.

A Palace official said Mr Ramos will also most likely issue today a reaction to Sison's allegation that he seeks to settle the communist insurgency not through negotiations but by "weakening the revolutionary movement and compelling it to capitulate."

Brig. Gen. Romeo Padiernos, chief of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Civil Relations Service, scoffed at Sison's charges, saying he only has himself to blame for the rift within the party.

Padiernos said seized documents and confessions by captured CPP members indicated that the party has been wracked by "internal difference and dissent" since 1990 as a result of "a series of strategic and tactical blunders" by the party leadership.

Padiernos denied Sison's claim that the military had recruited Reyes, De Vera and Kintanar allegedly "in an intelligence and psywar scheme" against the CPP.

"The (three) personalities mentioned have not been recruited nor are they members of the AFP. It is very unlikely that they have abandoned their political convictions just because they were released from detention under circumstances which they themselves described as farcical," Padiernos added.

"Mr Sison cannot blame President Ramos and the government for (the internal discord within the CPP). It is a problem of his own making," he added.

Padiernos said the military fully supports the President's peace initiatives and "has manifested its sincerity by releasing rebels and assisting rebel returnees."

Hellbent

In his faxed statement, however, Sison said the government is "hellbent" in pursuing a total-war policy and other courses of action to destroy the communist movement, such as recruiting party "renegades."

Sison said the three were behind a series of anti-CPP articles that appeared in a certain newspaper (not the INQUIRER) that "conjure up the illusion that the CPP is split."

He added that these articles were aimed at "preparing the withdrawal of the regime from talks by claiming that the regime does not know whom to talk to."

Sison also denied the three's charge that some CPP Central Committee members convened in July a "bogus" plenum somewhere in Southern Tagalog and elected him as party chairman.

Sison said the plenum was attended by "nearly all active Central Committee members."

Sison said Reyes, De Vera and Kintanar "lost their positions in the Central Committee" after their arrests.

They have "also been held accountable for grave errors and offenses against individual victims" he added.

Ramos Orders Plan To Cushion Effects of Strikes

HK1112051492 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 11 Dec 92 pp 1, 6

[Report by Fred Lobo]

[Text] President Ramos ordered yesterday key government agencies to adopt an overall action plan to defuse and cushion the effects of impending or actual strikes nationwide by the labor and transport sectors.

In a parallel move, the President also directed all law-enforcement coordinating bodies of the government to revitalize themselves and ensure a unified direction in the suppression of criminal activities nationwide.

Ramos issued the directive on the adoption of an anti-strike action plan to Interior and Local Government Secretary Rafael Alunan, Labor and Employment Secretary Nieves Confesor and Defense Secretary Renato de Villa and Transportation and Communications Secretary Jesus Garcia.

The President said that the overall action plan should be crafted in such a way that it will defuse, pre-empt or neutralize impending or actual strikes by the labor and transport sectors whether these are staged in the national capital region (NCR), Mindanao or other parts of the country.

Ramos added that the plan should also address the various issues surrounding the strike, including the holding of dialogues to avert tension and pacify tension-gripped areas.

He directed the four government agencies to tap the services of the peace and order councils (POCs) in localities affected or to be affected by strikes.

The President's directives came in the wake of the planned strike this week by the transport sector, supported by the labor sector, on the problems of jeepney rerouting and the 18-centavo power rate hike which will take effect at the end of this month.

Ramos tried to address the issue by calling transport and labor leaders to a dialogue in Malacanang last Tuesday.

Malacanang said that as a result of the dialogue, the jeepney rerouting issue will be resolved at a meeting today between government officials and transport leaders in Metro Manila.

The dialogue will be presided by Metro Manila Authority (MMA) officials and NCR Cabinet Officer for Regional Development Dionisio de la Serna.

The advantages or disadvantages of the government plan to reroute jeepneys in the metropolis will be thoroughly discussed, Malacanang said.

Meanwhile, the President called for a unified direction and integration of efforts in the suppression of criminal activities in an executive order mandating all law-enforcement coordinating bodies on the national, regional and provincial levels to continue serving as venues for the coordination of all law-enforcement activities of the government.

These coordinating agencies are known as the law-enforcement coordinating committees created and constituted pursuant to Executive Order No. 823 dated Sept. 11, 1982.

The new executive order also mandates the reorganizations of the law-enforcement coordinating committee on all levels.

On the regional level, the law-enforcement coordinating committee is reorganized to consist of the PNP [Philippine National Police] regional director and field officers of government agencies as members.

The provincial law-enforcement coordinating committee, on the other hand, will consist of the PNP provincial director as chairman and heads of provincial field offices as members.

The executive order tasks the chairman of the peace and order council to issue rules and regulations governing its implementation.

The President also signed the appointment of three new officers of the National Security Council (NSC).

Appointed were Romeo T. Hernadez as deputy director general, and Augusto Francisco J. Mier and Mrs Obdulia R. Cardinales as directors III.

An export in national security administration, Hernandez started serving as intelligence officer in the NICA (National Intelligence Coordinating Agency) in 1957 and was involved in the NSC since its formation. He was assistant secretary general of the NSC prior to his appointment.

Mier Handles NSC's policy studies, socio-economic and cultural affairs branches, while Cardinales headed the finance and administrative division.

General Strike Paralyzes Mindanao

HK1112053592 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 11 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] A general strike opposing an increase in electricity rates swept across Mindanao yesterday, crippling public transport and business in the island's major cities.

An Army intelligence agent was shot dead while observing a protest rally in Ozamiz City in northwestern Mindanao.

Pfc. [Private First Class] Gregorio Sorino of the 34th Infantry Battalion intelligence unit was shot in the head and the back by an unidentified gunman, who fled on a motor-cycle driven by a companion.

The situation was generally peaceful in other strike areas.

Among the cities and provinces hit by the welga ng bayan [people's strike], which was led by transport workers and militant groups, were Davao City, Cagayan de Oro, General Santos, Pagadian, Iligan, Davao del Sur and Davao del Norte, North and South Cotabato, Misamis Oriental and Misamis Occidental.

In Davao del Norte, dxIF Dayao Bombo [radio station] reported that heavily armed men stopped a passenger bus in Tagum and set it on fire after telling the passengers to get off.

Walkouts in the key cities effectively paralyzed transport in Southern and Northern Mindanao, and parts of Western Mindanao, the Autonomous Regions in Muslim Mindanao and Central Mindanao.

The general strike was mounted to protest a power rate increase of 18 centavos per kilowatt-hour scheduled for Dec 26.

The increase comes at a time when the country is reeling from an acute power shortage, with daily brownouts plaguing Metro manila, most of Luzon and other regions.

President Ramos ordered four departments—national defense, labor, local government, and transportation and communications—to draw up measures "to defuse, preempt and neutralize" an impending strike in Metro Manila as well as the on-going strikes in Mindanao.

Presidential Spokesperson Aunabelle Tecson Abaya said the President wanted the plan of action to address the issues raised by transport and factory workers.

Human barricades were seen along the boundary of Davao del Sur and North Cotabato.

In Davao City, as much as 90 percent of public transport ground to a half. Only a few jeepneys were seen plying their routes by mid-morning yesterday.

Drivers in Cagayan de Oro launched their strike before dawn.

"No hike, no Christmas gift to Napocor [National Power Corporation]!" yelled protesters, led by the People's Movement for Anti-Poverty.

Instead of increasing power charges, the protesters said the government should reduce foreign-debt payments so as to have funds for power development.

Starting at 4 a.m., protesters formed barricades on major streets, bridges and the entrance to Cagayan de Oro's seaport.

By 8 a.m., police chief Nilo Esguerra said 90 percent of public transport vehicles had halted.

Around 80 percent of the private vehicles also kept off the streets.

As a result, transportation from Cagayan de Oro to Davao, Zamboanga and the whole of Northern Mindanao was cut off.

Jaime Bacorro, terminal manager of a bus company in Cagayan de Oro, said long-distance buses operated for only about three hours, from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m., to allow scores of overnight travelers to leave.

Departures were suspended at 5 a.m., he said.

Strikers smashed the windshield of a car owned by Dr. Imelda Pagtolun-an after she reportedly tried to ram through a barricade.

The strike created a three-kilometer traffic jam along Lapasan highway. Traffic got going again by midday after strikers heeded demands from stranded motorists.

The strikers, among whom were students from Xavier University, priests, nuns and cause-oriented groups, also held protest rallies in different parts of the city and in front of the Cagayan Electric Power and Light Co., the city's sole power franchise firm.

Chief Superintendent Honesto Bumanlag, regional police director in Northern Mindanao, sent police guards to key power installations in Aplaya, Jasaan, Misamis Oriental, and in Carmen, Cagayan de Oro.

In Iligan City, the strike forced schools to close and stranded hundreds of commuters.

Iligan police estimated that only 2 percent of passenger jeepneys and private vehicles were on the streets.

Cagayan de Oro Mayor Pablo Magtajas and Misamis Oriental Gov. Vicente Emano urged that the power rate increases be suspended until a public hearing could be held to hear various opposition groups.

The United Church of Christ in the Philippines, representing its churches in Misamis Oriental, Bukidnon and Camiguin, urged the President to instead lower power rates because of growing poverty among the people.

Three labor groups—the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, Federation of Free Workers and Kilusang Mayo Uno—joined forces in the Cagayan de Oro strike.

Military Thwarts Rebel Plan To Attack Manila

HK1012054092 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 10 Dec 92 p 6

[Report by Joey Caburnida]

[Text] Sta. Ines, Tanay, Rizal—The military yesterday said they have thwarted communist rebel plans to launch attacks in the metropolis during the 24th anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) on Dec. 26.

Brig. Gen. Thelmo Cunanan, chief of the National Capital Region Defense Command, said this was the result of the capture and destruction of a big rebel base in the wilds of this town about 35 km east of Metro Manila.

Col. Roberto Jaymalin, commander of Task Force Bonifacio which is pursuing the rebels, said "this rebel base is only 30 to 40 km from Metro Manila. We were able to drag them out there and they are now on the run... so we disrupted their plan to hit Manila by Dec. 26 in time for their anniversary," Jaymalin said.

Jaymalin said the NPA [New People's Army] rebels might have been planning to sabotage vital installations. "You should remember that this area is very close to Philcomsat [expansion unknown] and also to the National Power Corporation."

Cunanan said it was "normal" for the NPA to carry out offensives in the run up to their anniversary. "During their anniversaries, some units from the CPP or the NPA would undertake offensive armed actions and it would be prudent for us to assume that maybe armed actions could be carried out in Manila," said Cunanan who flew here yesterday to visit his troops.

This village, sitting on a valley traversed by a river had become the favorite haven of insurgents from Central Luzon, Bicol, Quezon and other Southern Tagalog provinces, Cunanan said.

Jaymalin said it was possible the guerrillas were regrouping in the common boundaries of Bulacan, Rizal and Quezon as preparation for activities for their anniversary.

With the destruction of the base, government offensives have now shifted to the more remote barangay of Angelo, near Quezon province where most of the fleeing rebels are believed to be regrouping after nearly two weeks of fighting.

Jaymalin said the estimated 200 to 300 NPAs have now splintered into groups of six to eight and have spread out to the nearby mountains.

He said Angelo is a suitable choice for the rebels because of its potential sources of funds for their operations.

"There are a number of gold mines in barangay Angelo and most of the residents earn a living by gold panning. That is a source of income for the communist rebels," he said referring to "revolutionary taxes" imposed by the NPAs.

Sta. Ines residents said it is a nine-hour walk from Tanay Town proper to the barangay or much shorter by a six-by-six truck that makes the trip once a day for P50 [Philippine pesos].

"There is no electricity, no roads and it is really a good spot for the communists to regroup because of the rugged terrain and the mountainous region," Jaymalin said.

He said there were about 200 NPA regulars stationed here since they launched their offensive in October. So far, he said, one rebel was killed, six wounded and 11 have been either captured or have surrendered. On the government side, a soldier was killed and another wounded.

Honasan Not To Be Allowed To Return to Ranks

HK1012063892 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Renegade Colonel Gregorio Gringo Honasan will not be allowed to return to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The president said Honasan's case is closed as far as the latter's reinstatement to the military is concerned. This, he stressed, is in accordance with Republic Act 291, which takes a rebel military officer out of commission.

Ramos, however, said if Honasan wishes to serve the government through other means, he may have a chance.

NDF To Investigate Report on NPA Captives

HK1112053892 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 11 Dec 92 p 28

[Report by Carla Gomez]

[Text] Bacolod City—The National Democratic Front [NDF] is investigating a military claim that at least 30 government troopers are in the custody of the New People's Army [NPA].

Satur Ocampo, NDF spokesman, also said the NDF will declare a unilateral 48-hour ceasefire for Christmas and another 48-hour suspension of hostilities for New Year.

Ocampo said the government sent to the NDF headquarters in the Netherlands a confidential report listing the names of government soldiers held captive by communist insurgents.

The list includes eight soldiers, six policemen and 16 civilians involved in the anti-insurgency campaign.

They include three from Negros Occidental—Johnny Cabili, captured June 6, 1991; Ernito Hilarion, Feb. 24, 1992 in La Castellana town; and a certain Lerez, July 1992, Kabankalan.

"The NDF will investigate whether the names submitted are indeed in the hands of the NPA," Ocampo told the INQUIRER during his visit to this city early this week.

As a policy of the NDF, he explained, communist guerillas announce the capture of enemies and call for negotiations for their release.

Government troopers who defect to the rebel movement are also announced, he said.

"The big question is, were these 30 members of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] and PNP [Philippine National Police] really captured or disappeared under different circumstances?" Ocampo said.

The government list includes three Negrenses [residents of Negros Occidental].

But Ocampo said Bacolod Bishop Emeritus Antonio Y. Fortich told him he knew no prisoners in the custody of rebels in Negros.

Ocampo also said the NDF was willing to discuss a bilateral ceasefire for the Christmas holidays, adding that the communist insurgents and the government differ in the definition of unilateral ceasefire.

The government defines ceasefire as a voluntary cessation of hostilities and the continuation of patrols, arrest of underground personalities and raids of safe-houses, he said.

Ramos Moves To Thwart Ratification of Debt Bill

HK0312060092 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] President Fidel Ramos, in an attempt to thwart Congress' plan to ratify a bill imposing a cap on our country's foreign debt, has resurrected the Legislative-Executive Debt Council [ELDC], which will serve as the government's advisory body on policies affecting the country's foreign debt. Among the members of the council are Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon, Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia, Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez, and Finance Secretary Ramon Del Rosario. Other members will be appointed by Senate President Neptali Gonzales and House Speaker Jose de Venecia.

It has been learned that the president decided to resurrect the ELDC following reports that support for the debt cap bill was rallying in Congress.

Government Open To Cash Deal With Westinghouse

HK1012042692 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE WEEKLY in English 10 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] The Government is willing to consider an out-of-court cash deal to settle the bribery case against Westinghouse Electric Corp., builder of the never-used Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP), but will reject any offer from the power firm to operate the nuclear facility.

Finance Secretary Ramon del Rosario, head of the Presidential committee on the BNPP, yesterday said the government's willingness to accept a cash settlement in exchange for the dropping of the bribery case is a "normal procedure" in arbitration cases.

He, however, emphasized that as far as the government is concerned, Westinghouse can never operate the plant.

"If they wish to make an offer of a cash settlement for example, or something along that line, I must stress we are not soliciting this, then we are prepared to consider it. It has to be a new proposal, not related to the operation of the NBPP," del Rosario said in an interview in Malacanang.

The finance secretary said that any new proposal from Westinghouse would be subjected to "the same detailed scrutiny" that the government's negotiating panel used in the "final and best" offer the power firm submitted to the government last month.

The administration's lawyer has already informed Westinghouse of the government's position.

Westinghouse has formally asked the government to "keep its doors" open, indicating the firm's desire to submit another offer.

Del Rosario refused to come up with the government's bottom line for any cash settlement, although he said any cash offer would have to be attractive enough for the government to drop not only the bribery case it filed in New Jersey but the arbitration case pending in Geneva.

Military Operations Displace West Mindanao Tribe

HK1112040292 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 11 Dec 92 p 28

[Text] Thousands of Subanens, the indigenous people of Western Mindanao, have been displaced due to the continuing militarization in the region, according to human rights groups.

From May 1991 to July 1992, more than 1,109 families or 4,555 individuals, mostly Subanens, were forced to flee their homes as a result of intensified counterinsurgency operations, the Humanitarian Alliance Against Disaster said.

Subanen means "river dwellers" but most of them today live in the forest or in evacuation centers.

Since 1988, some 189 Subanen families abandoned their homes and farms because of military operations.

In the first quarter of 1992, more than 120 Subanen families from Femagas, Katipunan, Zamboanga del Norte fled to the hinterlands while T-28 planes pounded the mountains with bombs and ground troops scored suspected New Peoples Army lairs with mortar shells.

Joey Torres, spokesman of the newly-created Task Force Western Mindanao, said the military launched at least five major campaigns in the region.

"The worst military operations in terms of gravity of civilian displacement started last year with Oplan [operation plan] Rainbow," Torres said some 2,800 government troops were mobilized by the First Infantry Division in the campaign.

Documents from the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace revealed that two Tora Tora bombers, a fighter jet, one Sikorsky helicopter and four helicopter gunships dropped some 62 bombs at the heart of Mt. Malindang in Zamboanga del Sur during the first day of operation.

During the first three months of this year, Oplan Lambat Bitag [Trap Net] II was put to action. This was followed by Oplan Strike Back.

Thailand

Surin: No Plan To Review Amity Treaty With U.S.

BK1112064692 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 11 Dec 92 p 3

[Excerpt] Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan said on 10 December that the Thai Government currently sees no need to review whether or not to revoke the Thai-U.S. Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations. He said in the past certain groups of people had brought up the idea because they felt that the treaty was outdated. Surin said the Foreign Ministry will not be taking any action to review or revoke the treaty. [passage omitted]

Extension Sought for Sanction on Khmer Rouge

BK1012072892 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sent a message to the Supreme National Council, SNC, of Cambodia asking for an extension of one more month after 31 December to give more opportunity for Thai traders. Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon said he has discussed the issue with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and asked them to negotiate with the SNC to extend the deadline to 31 January 1993 instead of 31 December this year for the suspension of log exports as a pressure for Khmer Rouge.

Deputy Commerce Minister Chaiyot Sasomsap added that Thailand wants the deadline to be extended because the amount of logs in the concession forest is not (?known). One-month extension is considered appropriate. The Commerce Ministry also said that according to the charter [word indistinct] of the United Nations, the solution of the United Nations Security Council will not take effect unless the involved and affected countries have negotiated with the UN officers in sanctioned countries. The Commerce Ministry said it is Thailand's right to negotiate with the SNC to extend the deadline.

More Checkpoints To Help Traders Beat Deadline

BK1012054092 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Thailand may need to open more border checkpoints along the Thai-Cambodian border to assist Thai traders to beat the deadline of 31 December when logs are no longer permitted to be exported from that country. Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said that the Ministry of Interior will be responsible for involved government agencies to provide facilities for Thai traders to import logs from Cambodia within 31 December, the deadline imposed by the Supreme National Council, SNC, of Cambodia and supported by the United Nations Security Council as a pressure on the Khmer Rouge.

The minister said that the government will try to facilitate Thai traders who have been carrying out their cross-border business legally. He said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is negotiating with the United Nations Security Council and the SNC on the issue.

Source: Temporary Border Crossings To Open

BK1112031792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Dec 92 p A4

[Text] Thailand would open more temporary 24-hour border crossing points along the Thai-Cambodia border, to help speed up transportation of logs out of Cambodia before Dec 31, after which its timber export will be banned, an informed source said yesterday.

An ad hoc panel will be formed to decide on the locations of these new crossings with priority given to the areas where Thai businessmen have logging concessions, according to a reliable source.

The source said the existing temporary border crossing points which had their own opening times would also be manned round the clock.

National Security Council (NSC) will forward the proposal to Prime Minister Chuan Likphai who will join a NSC meeting on Monday.

Such proposals are Thailand's attempts to minimize the impact on Thai loggers caused by the Cambodian Supreme National Council's (SNC) ban on the export timber.

The ban issued in September bars export of lumber from Cambodia after Dec 31. Thailand is seeking a grace period from the SNC after the deadline to allow Thai businessmen time to transfer trees already felled in their concessioned areas.

The NSC meeting would also discuss measures to deal with UN's resolution on an oil embargo on Khmer Rouge controlled zones. It is unclear when this measure would come into force, but it is expected that it would be implemented soon after the United Nations discusses the matter with Thailand.

Meanwhile, Dr Krasae Chanawong chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, said the government would be advised to bring together the four factions so that could talk [as published] to each other to reach a better understanding among themselves.

Addressing a Rotary Club meeting on "The Challenging Situation facing Thai-Cambodian Border Inter-Trade" he described the sanction against the Khmer Rouge as "inappropriate".

"The best way is to give them more time and encourage them to sit and talk. I stress that the obstacles in the peace agreement should be solved by the Cambodians themselves, not by other countries," said the Magsaysay award winner.

He said he was not sure that the sanction would be effective enough to prod the Marxist faction back to the peace agreement again. Krasae said a country sealed off by sanctions could not only improve its weapon production capacity but also help its people to survive under the ensuing conditions without assistance from outside.

"The Khmer Rouge people are not fools and nobody should push them against the wall. They are ready to fight," said the doctor.

His committee will soon visit Phnom Penh to explore the possibility of arranging a meeting of the four factions.

Japanese chief of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac), Yasushi Akashi, has welcomed the House committee's visit to Untac headquarters.

Prasong Confirms More Crossings for Log Imports

BK1112144792 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] The Foreign Ministry will open more temporary crossing points in seven provinces along the Thai-Cambodian border to speed up the transportation of logs and machinery out of the Khmer Rouge-controlled areas. Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri reported to newsmen about the plan raised during a discussion on the foreign minister's policy at Government House this afternoon. He again confirmed the Thai Government's policy to uphold the UN resolution on economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry has been trying to contact the Supreme National Council of Cambodia to ask for more time to ferry the logs and equipment with the approaching deadline. He said Thailand will open more temporary border crossing points along the Thai border to speed up the transportation of equipment into Thailand before the enforcement of UN sanctions by the end of the year.

Prasong Denies Policy Aiding Khmer Rouge

BK1112051992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1524 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Bangkok, Dec 10 (AFP)—Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said Thursday that a United Nations ban on log exports from Cambodia would place a "tremendous burden" on Thailand, adding it was "totally legitimate" for Bangkok to try to minimise the impact.

Prasong also said he believed there was "no direct link" between the Khmer Rouge gains through cross-border trade with Thailand and what he called its "continued intransigence" in refusing to join the UN peace process.

"The Khmer Rouge are a very dogmatic people and will continue to do and say what they believe regardless of their material wealth," Prasong told the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand.

The foreign minister declined to answer questions as to whether Vietnamese and Japanese loggers were taking out as many, if not more, logs from Cambodia as Thailand was, saying such questions should be put to the head of the UN's Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

Thailand has come under criticism in past weeks for pleading for the postponement of the UN moratorium on log exports from Cambodia designed to take effect on December 31 of this year.

Many of the Thai concessions are in areas controlled by the Khmer Rouge, the hardline Marxist faction which has so far refused to join the peace process.

Prasong took pains to point out that Thailand's "overriding concern" was to overcome the current impasse and move the peace process forward.

He also said the postponement Thailand would ask for would only be "brief" but he did not specify a time limit.

He said his government, as a democratic government, had to be responsive to the interests of its people and that it had already directed the concerned departments to open more access points to concession areas in order to bring out logs already felled.

Prasong also revealed that the Thai Government had ordered preparations to enforce an embargo on oil and petroleum products moving into Cambodia.

The UN Security Council passed a resolution banning oil supplies to the Khmer Rouge at the end of last month.

"Let me say that we will comply with the UN Security Council resolution. But being a democratic government we must naturally answer to the parliament and our constituencies," he said.

"So while complying with the resolution I think it is totally legitimate for Thailand to see what can be done in cooperation with UNTAC and the SNC to mimimise the impact on Thailand," he said referring to the multimillion dollar log trade.

The Supreme National Council (SNC) is Cambodia's interim reconciliation body grouping representatives from all four factions.

"Now we have reached a critical stage in the peace process," Prasong said.

"While the present situation is not what we had hoped for, our immediate concern right now should be to prevent it from further deteriorating and lead to a return of hostilities which would bring us back to square one," he said.

Prasong Urged To 'Think Very Carefully'

BK1112111192 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 11 Dec 92 p 3

[Editorial: "The Foreign Minister and the United Nations"]

[Text] The United Nations voted to sanction the Khmer Rouge [KR]. As a result, Thailand, which voted along with other UN members for the sanctions, will have to abide by the resolution. It must close the border with Cambodia and halt all kinds of trade and activities with the Khmer Rouge.

As the government was about to give instructions concerning the UN sanctions, there was a report about Thailand. The report is not so good. It said Thailand's attitude was not clear regarding the implementation of UN sanctions. Thailand did not strictly adhere to the UN decision.

The charge was made by European and Asian countries, as well as the United States, which, together with Thailand, voted for the sanctions. Some of these nations even sent a report to remind Thailand of the resolution.

If the news is true, it should make us very ashamed, especially since Thailand is one of the countries which voted for the sanctions.

We admit that Thailand is the only country which stands to suffer from the sanctions, both physically and spiritually, more than any other country which voted for the sanctions.

Thailand was accused of not adhering to the UN resolution because, immediately after the UN decision was announced, the Thai Government and Foreign Ministry, through the foreign minister, stated that Thailand and the Thai people were forced to accept the situation because the sanctions are disadvantageous for Thailand. They would cause Thailand to lose all benefits it once earned from business with Cambodia, especially in the areas under Khmer Rouge control.

The foreign minister thus wanted the implementation of the UN sanctions and the border closure to be delayed for another month.

We deem that this government has not upheld its honor in the eyes of other countries; not only one, but many of the UN members. The request for a postponement of the UN sanctions, just because of a desire to protect certain interests, has earned Thailand an insult from other countries. From now on, other countries will no longer trust us and will not give credit to us as a UN member.

Regarding what happened, we would like to ask the present Thai Government to make a clear-cut decision on what to do next. We think that our national prestige is at stake if the government continues to ask for a postponement of the UN sanctions. If our demand is not met, that means our Foreign Ministry no longer has the trust and honor in the eyes of the international community, especially from UN members.

We therefore beg the Foreign Ministry, particularly the foreign minister, to think very carefully on this matter. What is at stake now is not just your personal credit, but it involves the prestige and honor of the entire country and people.

Security Increased at Indian, Pakistani Embassies

BK1112021192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Dec 92 pp A1, A2

[Text] Security has been tightened at both the Pakistani and Indian embassies following a bomb threat to a Hindu temple in Bangkok on Wednesday in the face of religious violence in India, police said.

But Pol Gen Yuthaphon Rairatsami, a Special Branch official, assured citizens that there was nothing to worry about.

He said additional police personnel have been ordered to guard the embassies of India and Pakistan.

Yuthaphon also said police will patrol the areas where the two embassies and Hindu temples are located.

"Both the Special Branch and local police forces have been alerted to prevent any violence that may result from religious extremism," he said.

Meanwhile, about 130 angry Indian Muslims in Bangkok gathered at the Indian embassy yesterday to denounce the recent demolition of a Muslim religious shrine by Hindu fanatics in India.

They submitted a protest letter to the embassy denouncing violence and demanding that the Indian government resolve the problem and restore peace and order to the region immediately a Tong Lor police official said. He added that the protest was generally peaceful.

Police said the protesters were led by Mohammad Ilyas, president of the Tamil-Indian Muslims' Association of Thailand.

The letter alleged that India seemed to be reluctant to do something about the incident. It also cited the need to address this problem now to prevent violence from spreading to other countries.

"The Indian government has expressed its regrets over the incident. It has also vowed to bring those responsible for this bloodshed to trial," said Dr Atul Khare, first secretary for political affairs at the Indian embassy.

"Most of those who took part were Hindu fanatics. However, the Indian government is ready to compensate the victims and build a new mosque for the Muslims" Khare added.

Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan believes that sectarian violence will not spread to Thailand.

"Muslims in Thailand have always had the freedom to practice their religion. I don't think the bomb threat has anything to do with them," said Surin.

An official at the Hindu temple in Silom said that nothing has happened at the temple so far.

"While there have been no untoward incidents as of yet, we are not taking any chances," said Suraphong Panprapha: He reiterated that he is against violence and hopes that it will not happen here.

Minister Warns Against U.S. Pressure on Copyright

BK1012133392 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 10 Dec 92 p 4

[Text] Deputy Commerce Minister Churin Laksanawisit reported after meeting with the U.S. economic counsellor on 9 December that he told the official any decision made by the United States should be based on economic and political factors rather than pure economic interests. The United States should take into consideration the survival of democracy and government in Thailand when it comes up with certain demands. If the United States puts too much pressure on Thailand, the Thai Government might not be able to comply with U.S. demands and might collapse from a defeat in parliamentary debate over certain issues. This would neither serve the interests of Thailand, nor those of the United States.

Commenting on the minister's statement, a source at the Commerce Ministry said the deputy minister wanted to remind the United States that there are certain points in the U.S. demand concerning copyrights and patent protection which Thailand cannot follow. They are, for example, the U.S. demand for Thailand's protection of drugs already registered in foreign countries but not marketed in Thailand, and the U.S. demand that no drug patent committee be set up to monitor prices. Meanwhile, the United States wants Thailand to step up protection of copyrights by strictly enforcing laws to punish copyright violators.

Chat Thai Leaders Deny Merger With Chat Phatthana

BK1112012992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Leaders of the Chat Thai Party yesterday denied there were plans afoot for a merger with the Chat Phatthana Party [CPP] under the present circumstances.

Chat Thai Party leader Praman Adireksan and Secretary-General Banhan Sinlapa-acha dismissed the report as a joke made by CPP leaders.

Chat Phatthana leader Chatchai Chunhawan and deputy leader Kon Thapparangsi hinted about the possibility at Tuesday's dinner of opposition MPs. They joked about a new political party named Chat Thai Phatthana with Mr Banhan as secretary-general.

Pol Gen Praman said the idea was not possible as he would be the one who could say if there was to be any merger. "It's all right where we are now," he said.

But Mr Banhan did not rule out the merger entirely saying that it could be possible if Parliament was dissolved and a general election was called. He said there might be some thinking about it but his party had not been approached yet.

Asked to comment on Gen Chatchai's remark favouring the merger, the Chat Thai secretary-general said it was Gen Chatchai's personal view which was difficult to put into practice.

Asked what was likely to prevent the two parties from merging, he said both were large political parties as Chat Thai and Chat Phatthana have 77 and 60 MPs respectively. There would be no problem if the two merge after a House dissolution but at this moment they would cooperate as members of the opposition, he said.

Mr Banhan said the issue might come up in the future because the merger must have objectives. He added that the suggested merger could have been meant for the next general election.

Asked if he personally agreed with the idea, Mr Banhan replied: "Chat Thai is already a big political party."

Meanwhile, Interior Minister and New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut commented that the idea would be a good thing in principle.

He said that political parties in Thailand were not very different in their thinking or policies and if they merged the number of parties would be decreased and their strength increased.

Mergers of parties are not something to be frowned upon and having too many political parties sometimes create confusion, Gen Chawalit said.

He said that he did not know if the two parties could merge as this would depend on their leaders. However, their political and economic directions, as well as personal quarrels, should present no obstacles to the merger, Gen Chawalit said.

Paper Views Problems Facing Thai Democracy

BK1112022792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Dec 92 p A6

[Editorial: "How To Make Thai Democracy Work?"]

[Text] What is wrong with Thailand's 60-year-old democracy? In Premier Chuan Likphai's opinion, the Thai political system has many weaknesses: the questionable quality of some of its elected politicians, the large number of political parties, the illegal use of money in general elections, corruption in high government offices, the military's use of corruption as an excuse to seize government power, and the misunderstanding in several circles as to what democracy really means and should be.

Many other things can be added to this list, for example: the lack of regular opportunity for grassroots' participation in local government, authoritarian officials who are not accountable to the local people, and the pervasive influence of chao pho and chao mae (wealthy men and women with outlaw notoriety and political connections in high places).

Yet Premier Chuan still sees democracy as "the best" form of government, with the least number of drawbacks, as far as government accountability and checks and balances among various branches of government are concerned. He may be correct about democracy being the least objectionable form of government, but how many legitimate checks and balances there are in the Thai government structure is questionable.

Take the judiciary, for example. The judiciary is virtually an independent system which is not responsive to either the justice minister or the Cabinet or the House of Representatives. The Chuan administration recently found itself powerless to change anything in the Judiciary, where the Judicial Commission reigns supreme.

Reciprocally, the judiciary seldom gets in the way of the government. Even when there was a serious dispute over the interpretation of the effect of the abolition of the general amnesty decree, the Constitution Tribunal, not the Supreme Court, settled the dispute. Thus there are hardly any checks and balances between the judiciary and the executive branch.

Take the military, as another example. Structurally, all military branches are under the supervision of the Defence Ministry, headed by the defence minister, who is a member of the Cabinet. But in practice, few military commanders are willing to accept civilian rule and most of them resent being held accountable to the elected House because they believe they are "more dedicated" to the nation and "more respectable" than most elected politicians. As long as such military chauvinism exists, Thailand will continue to see the military play its self-appointed role of checking on the government without subjecting itself to any counterbalancing checks.

What can Premier Chuan and other politicians do to remove the weaknesses? They certainly can do little to change the military and the judiciary. But they can still do a great deal to improve the quality of elected politicians. First of all, they can try to stop unscrupulous politicians from winning elections through vote-buying and fraud. Without these greedy, selfish politicians in power, corruption in high government offices will not be as widespread as in the recent past. Then the military will not have rampant corruption as an excuse for another coup attempt.

Reforming the electoral process is a necessary step toward blocking wealthy, unprincipled politicians from buying their way into power. An independent election commission is needed to hold general elections instead of the Interior Ministry, which has repeatedly failed to stop vote-buying and election fraud. The Interior Ministry—being under the control of politicians holding interior portfolios—tends to side with government parties, especially the party of the interior minister, in a general election.

Election watchdog PollWatch received more than 2,000 complaints of irregularities in the last general election and submitted about 300 of the complaints for further action by the Interior Ministry. But the Interior Ministry has done little to follow up on these cases, because many of them could hurt elected politicians now in power.

When the parliamentary committee studying proposals on constitutional amendments this month reaches the part concerning the electoral process, it should seriously consider transferring the responsibility of holding general elections from the Interior Ministry to an independent election commission.

If not, it must at least institutionalize an independent election watchdog like PollWatch into the Constitution so that such a watchdog can check on the performance of the Interior Ministry and serve as a counter-balance to undesirable elements trying to manipulate a general election for their narrow self-interests.

Only when more and more politicians with democratic principles are elected into the House can we hope to see Thai democracy work the way it should.

China Seen Primarily as 'Economic Threat'

BK1112024592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Dec 92 p A6

[Article by Kawi Chongkitthawon: "China's Threat: Real or Imagined?"]

[Text] China's increasing military power and accelerated defence spending in recent months, including large imports of modern weapons from Russia, have been widely recorded. The extent to which it can be seen as a real threat to Thailand is, however, open to question.

Recent discussions with senior Thai officials and academics reveal the post-Cold War view of China is more as a potential economic threat to Thailand than a political or military threat.

The military threat dominated Thailand's perception of China during the Cold War era. For example, according to a recent confidential report on Thailand's perceived external threats in the five years ending in 1995, security and military officials were of the view that China was considered a threat to Thailand.

Even though the world's political landscape has changed dramatically, conservative military leaders still look at China with a high level of suspicion, given its ideology, sheer size, and increased military power.

Presently, only younger leaders and policymakers are more inclined to look at the Middle Kingdom as a potential economic threat. They view China's military build-up as part of its increased global stature and economic well-being.

M.R. Sukhumphan Pariphat, director of Chulalongkon University's Institute of Security and International Studies, said that Thailand should be realistic in measuring China's military power, especially its naval build-up.

"Thailand has to watch closely China's recent naval build-up. But we should not exaggerate its naval capability," the academic said. "China has no naval tradition like most Western powers. Even the former Soviet Union has its own problems in projecting itself as a naval power."

M.R. Sukhumphan said Thailand and its ASEAN partners should increase security dialogue between them as well as increase their defence cooperation to include intelligence exchanges and joint military exercises.

While the academic said there is no power like the United States, countries in the region must work together to ensure their security and stability. "Such cooperation is crucial to prevent any power vacuum in the region," he said.

However, M.R. Sukhumphan said China's potential economic threat is far more dangerous than its current military build-up. Furthermore, he said economically powerful China presents a unique problem for Thailand and the rest of Southeast Asia.

During the Cambodian conflict, Sino-Thai relations had reached a zenith, and now they can be considered as "routine."

"There are no big problems with Sino-Thai relations that cannot be resolved, and yet at the same time there is no scope for qualitative upgrading of relations," he said. Since Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia in December 1978, Thailand and China have worked closely to pressure Vietnam to leave Cambodia and jointly "bleed Vietnam white."

With the largest population in the world and its land mass, China could produce virtually everything that Thailand and other countries in the region have, or are going to have, because it possesses huge bases of resources and other things, according to M.R. Sukhumphan.

Coupling that with its recent "southward geo-economic expansion" to Yunnan, Hainan, Burma, Vietnam and the ASEAN countries, China's presence will be more strongly felt in the late 1990's.

A lecturer at the Defence College who monitors China and Japan, echoed M.R. Sukhumphan's views, saying that China's economic power would be more damaging for countries in the region than its military power.

"Whatever China does militarily, the whole world will watch and react. But if it is in economic areas, then there will be praise for China's success in economic reforms," he noted.

Beyond that, some Thai officials also said the increased influx of Chinese immigrants through land routes from Yunnan to northern Thailand could be problematic for future Sino-Thai relations.

A former senior Foreign Ministry official, who asked not to be identified, revealed that at least 100,000 Chinese illegal immigrants have sneaked into Thailand. They could pose an "economic threat" to Thailand in the future.

The official said Beijing is well aware of the problem and is looking for ways to contain such an exodus of people. Deputy director of the Office of Overseas Chinese Affairs of the State Council, Li Xing Hao, who is currently visiting Thailand, said that China views the problem seriously. He said both countries have to tighten immigration procedures to prevent a further influx.

Coping with economically powerful China, M.R. Sukhumphan said, would require Thailand to work hard to reestablish a new economic order under the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) framework and within the region through the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Thailand must also fulfil its commitment to realize the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) scheme. .

All told, Thailand has now begun to perceive China as an economic threat. Thailand is unlikely to challenge Beijing's military might or question its strategies.

While in some quarters of Thailand there are still worries about China's military expansion, others think Thailand is lucky as it is not part of the claimants over the disputed Spratly Islands, where China's military might be put to the test if the conflict escalates.

Ban Winai Refugee Camp in Loei Province Closed

BK0912153592 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The Interior Ministry has closed the Ban Winai Refugee Camp in Pak Chom District of Loei Province in line with the government's policy. Interior Ministry Permanent Secretary Anan Anantakun and his delegation presided over the closing ceremony of the Ban Winai refugee camp. The camp was closed after the government and the National Security Council policy to let the Interior Ministry close the refugee camp by 1992 because it was an open site without any fences and was thus a security problem.

Some of the refugees have been resettled in third countries on a voluntary basis. The remaining refugees were transferred to a refugee center in Chiang Kham district of Phayao Province.

The United Nations has transferred the assets of the Ban Winai refugee camp to the Interior Ministry, which has in turn assigned the provincial administration to look after the assets. A territorial volunteer defense village of Loei Province will be set up at the site for landless volunteers.

Vietnam

Radio Notes U.S. Senate Hearings on MIA Issue

BK1112032892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Unlike other hearings, the hearings conducted early this week at the U.S. Senate Special Committee on MIA/POW's concentrated on the question whether there remain American servicemen alive in Vietnam. High-ranking U.S. officials, most of whom have visited Vietnam, have made a clear and appropriate reply to the question.

General John Vessey, special emissary of the U.S. President on MIA's, said Hanoi is not keeping any live prisoners of war. [words indistinct] in which there are live American prisoners of war in Vietnam is very unlikely.

Rear Admiral James Stockdale, who was a prisoner of war once detained in Vietnam, also affirmed that no American servicemen have been left behind after the end of the war.

Meanwhile, the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet also told the committee that he agreed with Gen. John Vessey's affirmation that there remain no Americans still alive or held in prison.

Also during this period of time American experts have completed the investigation into live sighting reports. According to them, in the 80 cases they have investigated, none of them remain in Vietnam. They also said that nearly 70 percent of those reports are on American POW's who have [word indistinct] or who have already been explained to Washington. About (?one-fourth) of the reports had been cooked up by [word indistinct] people with the hope of receiving some bonus or a ticket to the United States.

Vo Van Kiet Delivers Assembly Report, Part I

BK1012101992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 9 Dec 92

["First part" of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's report on socioeconomic situation delivered at the opening of Ninth National Assembly's Second Session on 9 December at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear Presidium, dear National Assembly Deputies:

The government has presented to the National Assembly the draft plan on the socioeconomic development program and the state budget estimates for 1993. In this draft plan, the government reviewed the implementation of the 1992 tasks set by the Eight National Assembly's 10th session. It also analyzed favorable conditions and immediate difficulties; outlined tasks, objectives, developmental orientations; and proposed major policies and measures aimed at improving the national economy and work at various key sectors in 1993.

In this report, I would like to present a general assessment of our socioeconomic situation and a number of important lines and policies:

1. New situations pertaining to the socioeconomic domain.

In 1992, the country saw a relatively comprehensive success in the economic domain. It was the first year that we fulfilled and overfulfilled various mains targets passed by the National Assembly. Compared with 1991, the GNP in 1992 increased by about 5.3 percent. Industrial output increased by 14.5-15 percent and agricultural output by 4.4 percent. Food production output reached 24 million tonnes or an increase by 9 percent. State capital construction increased by 25 percent and direct foreign investment increased by 73 percent. Budget revenues increased by 82 percent and exports by 19 percent.

In 1991, we overcomed various acute ordeals when our economy, which had not yet been extricated from crisis and inflation, was struck by the cutting of a major source of aid from the former Soviet Union while the U.S. continued its embargo. In 1992, we have better shown our capabilities and determination to overcome these ordeals. We have been able to meet the essential demands in materials and goods by our own means and through trade exchanges with foreign countries. The obstacle caused by the U.S. embargo could not block and isolate our country, nor could it prevent other countries from broadening their relations with Vietnam. Despite a sudden decrease of the economic and commercial relations between our country and the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, Vietnam's exports have increased quickly in the past two years. Since the promulgation of the Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam, some 40 countries have made direct investments in the country with registered capital under licenses totalling more than $5 billion. In 1992, investments increased twofold as compared to the previous year, including some big projects—other than oil and gas projects—which are being invested in both south and north Vietnam.

While coping with new ordeals, we have made important steps in curbing and containing inflation and the economic crisis. Whereas in 1990 and 1991 the inflation rate stood at almost 70 percent annually, or an average of 4.4 percent monthly, in 1992 it fell to 15 percent or an average of 1.2 percent monthly. Since March this year, the monthly inflation rate has come down to only 0.5 percent. The value of the Vietnamese dong and the exchange rates have gradually stabilized. Agro-industry and exports have grown beyond our expectation and are continuing to rise, thus putting an end to recession in some industries and economic sectors. Material supplies have been better ensured and national reserves have increased, thereby strengthening our capabilities to cope with market fluctuations. Being able to curb inflation and develop the economy in a relatively comprehensive manner and at a quite high speed in pressing circumstances are our outstanding achievements in 1992.

New progresses can be observed in the past year in the fields of science, education, culture, information, health care, and physical education and sports as well as in implementing social policies. Difficulties in the people's lives have been lessened, and the living standard of large segments of the population has improved markedly. Illegal departures by boat have been almost brought to a halt.

The state has persisted in an open and flexible foreign policy and advocates settlement of disputes through negotiations, thus contributing to the preservation of an environment of peace, stability, and cooperation in the region. In the context of new and complicated developments in the security and defense situation, this policy has gained worldwide sympathy and support. At the same time, measures to defend territorial sovereignty and ensure national security and defence have also been strengthened.

Diplomatic activities have continued to be positively broadened in the direction of dynamism and better coordination in foreign economic relations and international cooperation in science, culture, arts, and physical education and sports.

The successes and improvements achieved in 1992 were the combined results of the renovation process under the lines and policies set forth by our party and state. The renovation is also being increasingly reinforced with appropriate steps in practical conditions, creating high support and unanimity in society.

The regularization of renovation lines instituted in the 1992 Constitution together with the National Assembly election and formation of the new government have strengthened the foundation of political stabilization for socioeconomic development. Although the organization and management structure still needs to be perfected and the economic structure continues to be transformed, the new model of socialist economic construction in our country is developing every day through practical experiences and living needs.

Viewing the reasons for success in 1992, it is necessary to credit the investment of material and technical construction, and the application of scientific and technology advances of past years. These activities have helped increase the production capacity of some important industries, especially the production of food, crude oil, and electricity. This has contributed decisively to the fundamental balances of production stabilization and development. The state apparatus's guidance for work implementation has shown new improvements and more experience has been gained in the use of various macro management instruments. There has not been as much confusion as in the initial years when we first switched to the market system.

While confirming successes and progress, we need to realize that the economy is still weak and unstable in some aspects. Prominent are that the results of the economy, in general, are still poor; the extent of investment accumulation, still small; the labor output, low; the quality of processed products, less competitive; the consumption market, small; management work, laden with loopholes and inefficiency; efforts to curb smuggling and counterfeiting activities, still unsuccessful; the budget deficit, still great; monetary circulation not smooth enough; and the capital market, less developed. The rearrangement and adjustment in state-run economic enterprises and cooperatives, and the application of new economic policies for peasants, families, and individuals are implemented slowly, limiting liberation and development of production forces in society.

It is worthwhile to note that society is slowly improving and still facing many great, severe problems. Employment service has not created significant changes in society. Salaries for people working in administration and non-profit sectors have not increased. Living standards of ethnic minorities have not improved. The degradation of education and medical care establishments has not ceased. Social vices have increased considerably, especially prostitution, drug addiction, and gambling. Those vices are products of a degenerative lifestyle, which is effected by a harmful culture. They also are the main causes for thievery, robbery, crimes, and a public security risk. Generally speaking, social life, including activities of state organizations, has not been regulated by order and laws; and corruption, tax evasion, and dishonest trading have not been eliminated.

The actual situation at present clearly reveals the difficulties and complexities, as well as weaknesses in state management that must be overcome when shifting to a market economy in an effort to limit its spontaneity and negative effects.

Entering 1993, we will not underestimate the difficulties to overcome. Apart from having to continue to overcome residual weaknesses, we should anticipate complex developments in international relations, notably those in the region, and should always heighten our vigilance against schemes and acts of sabotage which may hinder our progress. In general, the positive developments over the years, especially 1992, have, however, been opening new socioeconomic opportunities and creating a new position with favorable capabilities and opportunities for development.

In the country, achievements in averting inflation and the economic crisis have eased our constant concern over the need to make up for deficits or to deal with turmoil concerning prices and rates of exhange. Changes in the economic situation have brought about specific results in life, thus fortifying faith and creating more favorable conditions for us to accelerate the renovation process. New factors have also emerged in all sectors and economic components, attesting to the fact that we are still highly capable of exploiting and developing even more vigorously the latent potential of our economy.

In international relations, the image of a Vietnam that has truly undergone changes, overcome ordeals, and firmly stood and moved forward on its own is creating a good impression among world public opinion. Our openhearted foreign policy and economic advantages are absorbing the interests of many countries, including American companies, in business investment in our country.

Compared with one or two years ago, although our strength has not yet been tremendously augmented, our position is no longer the same. The present situation can open many new possibilities and opportunies for supplementing the growth factors that we are lacking, such as capital, technology, market, and managerial experience. The task of translating these possibilities into realities depends mainly on our subjective efforts.

First of all, we must continue to uniformly and radically change our systems and policies; to bring into full play all potential and accumulation for investment in the country; to establish order and discipline in economic activities and social life; and to create the strength and inside conditions for tapping, receiving, and effectively employing all outside resources.

It is our responsibility to promptly and firmly grasp new opportunities as they are not things that can be brought about easily.

The actual situation and capabilities at present create favorable conditions for and demand an expanded scale of invesment in construction, foster more rapidly our economic growth, and narrow the gap and level of development between us and our neighbors, thus extricating our country from a state of poverty and underdevelopment.

In 1993, we must continue to fend off the economic crisis, control inflation, and create a firmer basis for stablizing the socioeconomic situation and ensuring political stability, while striving to achieve a new and higher level of development to gain momentum for vigorous advancement in the ensuing years.

In this spirit, the draft state plan for 1993 has laid down the tasks of continuing to accelerate agricultural and industrial production and exports, mobilizing to a high degree all sources at home and abroad to step up development investment, and carrying out construction of key projects.

All pressing issues concerning life and society must be solved in a more active manner, while attention must be paid to changing and improving the operational quality of education, training, public health, culture, art, and information.

Work-related foreign relations must be carried out in such a way as to continue creating an international environment conducive to the task of expanding economic relations with the outside world.

Along with carrying out socioeconomic development, we must always pay attention to consolidating national defense and security, safeguarding our sevoreignty and territorial integrity, and firmly maintaining social order and safety.

The state bugetary estimates for 1993 must also be arranged in the direction of fulfilling the abovementioned tasks and requirements.

National Assembly Session Issues Communique No. 2

BK1012150792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Communique No. 2 of Ninth National Assembly Second Session—date not given]

[Text] On 10 December, the National Assembly holds a plenary session at the Conference Hall under the chairmanship of National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh. The National Assembly deputies heard:

— An investigative report by Mai Thuc Lan, chairman of the National Assembly's Economic and Budget Committee, on socioeconomic issues and the state budget;

—A report by Y Ngong Niek Dam, chairman of the Nationalities Council, on 1993 state investment in nationalities and mountainous regions;

— A report by Tran Thi Tam Dan, chairman of the Culture, Education, Youth, Teenager, and Children's Committee, on the management and implementation of 1992 planning and the planning for 1993 concerning the work of culture, education, youths, teenagers, and children;

—A report by Nguyen Thi Than, chairman of the Committee for Social Problems, on policies concerning employment service; policies concerning injured soldiers, fallen combatants' families, and other social welfare recipients; and issues relating to the ending of social vices;

—A report by Dang Quan Thuy, chairman of the National Defense and Security Committee, on the consolidation of national defense and security in the new situation;

—A report by Vu Dinh Cu, chairman of the Science, Technology, and Environment Committee, on the science, industry development and environment protection;

—A report by Nguyen Ky Cam, state inspector general, on the situation of law enforcement work and the work against corruption and smuggling in 1992;

—A report by Pham Hung, chief justice of the Supreme People's Court, on the work of the court sector in 1992;

—A report by Comrade Le Thanh Dao, chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control, on the work of the organs of control;

—A investigative report by Ha Manh Tri, chairman of the National Assembly's Judiciary Committee, on the government report on the implementation of laws and the work against corruption, smuggling; and reports presented by chief justice of the Supreme People's Court and chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control.

11 Dec National Assembly Proceedings Reported

BK1112061592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Today, 11 December, the Ninth National Assembly's Second Session continues its meeting at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi.

At the morning session, the National Assembly heard:

—Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, on behalf of the government, report on state foreign affairs activities in 1992;

—Comrade Hoang Bich Son, chairman of the National Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee, on behalf of his committee, read an investigative report on foreign affairs activities;

—Comrade Nguyen Dinh Loc, minister of justice, report on the draft bills on supplementing and amending some stipulations of the Criminal Code and the Law on Criminal Procedures;

—Comrade Nguyen Van Yeu, deputy chairman of the National Assembly's Judiciary Committee, on behalf of the committee, read an investigative report on the draft bills to supplement and amend some stipulations of the Criminal Code, the Law on Criminal Procedures, and the Law on Land; and

—Comrade Nguyen Cong Tan, minister of agriculture and food industry, on behalf of the government, report on the draft bill on supplementing and amending the Law on Land.

Further on 11 Dec Proceedings

BK1112123592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Today, 11 December, the National Assembly continued to work at the conference hall.

The National Assembly heard:

—Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, on behalf of the government, report on the situation regarding our government's 1992 diplomatic activities.

—Comrade Hoang Bich Son, chairman of the National Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, on behalf of his committee, present an investigative report on the diplomatic report.

—Comrade Nguyen Dinh Loc, minister of justice, present a report on the draft bill on amending and supplementing a number of articles in the criminal code; and on the draft bill on amending and supplementing a number of articles in the law on criminal procedures.

—Comrade Comrade (Nguyen Van Yeu), deputy chairman of the National Assembly Judiciary Committee, on behalf of his committee, present an investigative report on the draft bill amending and supplementing a number of articles in the criminal code; and the draft bill amending and supplementing a number of articles in the law on criminal procedures and the law on land.

—Comrade Nguyen Cong Tan, minister of agriculture and food industry, on behalf of the government, read a report on the draft bill amending and supplementing the law on land.

—Comrade Phung Van Tuu, on behalf of the National Assembly Standing Committee, read a report on a 1993 tentative plan for law-building.

—Comrade Vu Mao, head of the office of the National Assembly, read a report providing a roundup of the opinions contributed by various National Assembly delegations on the draft of a by-law for National Assembly meetings. He also read a report to the National Assembly on a plan to rectify the draft by-law for National Assembly meetings.

Afterward, a number of National Assembly deputies further contributed their views on certain matters concerning this draft by-law.

The National Assembly will continue in session tomorrow.

Jiang Zemin Receives Doan Khue, Delegation in PRC

BK1012075892 Hanoi VNA in English 0618 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 10—Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Communist Party of China, on the afternoon of Dec. 9 received General Doan Khue and other members of the Vietnamese military delegation now on an official friendship visit to China.

General Secretary Jiang Zemin welcomed the delegation's visit to China saying that it would be an active contribution to the consolidation and strengthening of the friendship between the two peoples and armies.

Jiang Zemin said that since the Sino-Vietnamese summit meeting more than one year ago the friendship and cooperation relations between the two parties and countries have made progress. He expressed his wish that relation will be strengthened and broadened practically and effectively in accordance with the aspiration and interests of the two peoples.

General Doan Khue informed Jiang Zemin of the contents and results of his meetings and talks with Defence Minister Qin Jiwei and other leaders of the Chinese Ministry of National Defence and expressed his wish that the results of those meetings and contacts will contribute to strengthening the friendship and mutual understanding between the two peoples and armies for the fundamental and lasting interests of the two nations and of peace, stability and development in the region.

On this occasion, General Doan Khue expressed hearty thanks to the Chinese Government, people and army for their support and assistance to the revolutionary cause of the Vietnamese people.

Recent Growth of Foreign Investment Noted

BK1112032292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Over the past five years Vietnam has recorded remarkable achievements in foreign investment in Vietnam, contributing to changing the economy for the better. The amount of investment increased yearly by an average of 50-60 percent. Worthy of note is the increase in investment over the past two years. So far more than 500 investment projects have been granted licences with a total investment capital of $4 billion.

In 1991 alone investment capital reached $1.2 billion, nearly equal to that in the previous 20 years. In the first eight months of 1992 alone, Vietnam granted licences to more than 100 investment projects with total investment capital of $1 billion. So far 40 countries and territories have invested in Vietnam.

According to the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment, the average scale of each investment project which has been carried out is worth $3 million. Though this is a modest figure, it is of great significance.

Regarding the areas and structure of investment, it is worth noting that most of the investment capital is in the field of oil and gas, services, and prospecting. In oil and gas alone, the investment capital is $400 million, accounting for 45 percent of the total foreign investment capital in Vietnam.

Other areas include infrastructure, heavy industry, resource exploitation, aquatic products, etc.

Although there are many investment projects, the level has not reached our expectations. Mention should be made of the fact that three fourths of the total investment projects are concentrated in Ho Chi Minh City, Danang, and Ba Ria-Vung Tau Provinces in southern Vietnam. Other (?areas) including Hanoi and Haiphong have been paid litle attention to by investors.

So far, Taiwanese, Hong Kong and French businessmen are taking the lead as investors in Vietnam. Investment capital by capitalists of Chinese origin accounts for two thirds of the total investment capital in Vietnam.

Realities in the past five years show that attracting investment is the strategy of developing countries. To assure the targets for economic development to the year 2000, Vietnam needs an investment capital of $30-40 billion. To this end, the Vietnamese Government will have to take more positive measures in attracting investment by building infrastructure, training personnel and, more particularly, Vietnam will have to adopt a more [word indistinct] on foreign investment, creating favorable conditions and opportunities for foreign investors to come to Vietnam.

Russian Envoy Discusses Bilateral Trade Relations

BK1012144792 Hanoi VNA in English 1426 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 10—Russia continues its economic and trade relations with Vietnam, said Russian Ambassador R.L. Khamidulin at a regular press conference here this morning.

He said that trade value between the two countries is up and it is expected to further increase. Russia continues helping Vietnam put into operation the sixth generator unit of the Hoa Binh hydro-electric power plant in Sept. 1993. The two countries will go on with the installation of two more generators at the plant. They will discuss how to further develop their bilateral relations at the coming second meeting of their inter-governmental committee for economic and commercial cooperation.

Vice Premier Nhuyen Khanh Receives NEC Delegation

BK1012152192 Hanoi VNA in English 1507 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 10—A document on technical cooperation was signed here today by Do Trung Ta, deputy director of the General Department of Post and Telecommucation, and Mr. Miyazawa, first vice-chairman of the NEC Company of Japan.

NEC is the first telecommunication company of Japan to cooperate with Vietnam. Its first contract with Vietnam is to install a 17,000-number elecronic telephone exchange in Hanoi.

The two sides also agreed to cooperate in technological introduction, services, equipment maintenance, personnel training, technological transfer, and other fields.

The same day, the NEC delegation was received by Vice Premier Nguyen Khanh.

Vo Van Kiet Meets Indonesian Agriculture Minister

BK1012153192 Hanoi VNA in English 1508 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 10—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received at the presidential palace here this afternoon visiting Indonesian Minister of Agriculture Wardoyo and his party.

Speaking to the guests Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet highly appreciated the friendship and all-round cooperative ties between Vietnam and Indonesia, and Indoensia's experiences in national construction in general and in agricultural production in particular. He thanked the Indonesian Government and people for their assistance to Vietnam during its hard years of food shortage. He expressed his hope that Vietnamese-Indonesian cooperation in agriculture will be developed to a new level commensurate with the traditional relations between the two countries.

For his part, Minister Wardoyo spoke of the programme of agricultural cooperation proposed by Indonesia, including the growing, processing and marketing of bananas, pineapples and rubber. Indonesia may help Vietnam in the production of fertilizer plant, disease prevention and treatment by non-chemical materials and in training personnel for rubber and coffee industries. Indonesia is ready to share with Vietnam its experiences in agricultural production, in the production and marketing of farm products in the spirit of mutual assistance between close neighbours, the Indonesian minister said.

Vice President Receives Nigerian Envoy 11 Dec

BK1112083392 Hanoi VNA in English 0611 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec.11—Vice President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Nguyen Thi Binh today received Nigerian ambassador to Vietnam Emmanuel Nwachukwu Oba who paid her a farewell visit at the end of his term of office.

Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh welcomed Nigeria's contributions to the struggle against racial discrimination and for a new economic order in the world. She said that Vietnam and Nigeria have many conditions to enhance and develop the relations of friendship and cooperation.

Do Muoi Greets Portuguese Communist Party Leaders

BK1012143592 Hanoi VNA in English 1418 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 10—Party General Secretary Do Muoi today sent a message of congratulations to Alvaro Cunhal and Carlos Carvalhas on their elections as chairman of the National Council, and general secretary, of the Central Committee of the Portuguese Communist Party, respectively.

The Vietnamese party leader wished the traditional friendship and solidarity between the two parties and peoples further consolidation and development.

New Envoy to France Presents Credentials

BK1012152592 Hanoi VNA in English 1511 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 10—New Vietnamese Ambassador to France Trinh Ngoc Thai presented his credentials to French President F. Mitterrand in Paris yesterday.

Present at the ceremony was French Foreign Minister R. Dumas. President Mitterrand expressed his joy at the fine development of the France-Vietnamese relations, and he said he hoped these relations would continue to develop.

Ambassador Trinh Ngoc Thai conveyed to the French president best regards from President Le Duc Anh, and he said he hoped that the friendship and coopeation between Vietnam and France would be further consolidated and developed and that France in its capacity would actively contribute to making Southeast Asia a region of peace, friendship and cooperation.

Deputy Foreign Minister Attends Paris Conference

BK1112082792 Hanoi VNA in English 0612 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 11—Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co has attended the annual conference of foreign ministers of the French-speaking countries convened in Paris from December 7-9.

Addressing the conference, Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co highly welcomed the achievements of the French-speaking community in the past year, and highly appreciated the expansion of the community's activities in the Asian-Pacific region, especially its decision to open in Hanoi regional offices of the Agence de Cooperation Culturelle et Technique (ACCT) and the Association de Universites Partiellement ou Entierement de Langue Francaise (AUPEKF), establish a regional centre for French teaching in Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) and a French Informatics Institute in Hanoi. He affirmed that Vietnam is prepared to cooperate and share its experiences in a number of fields with other members in the French-speaking community.